

# How an Open Area Among Residential Places Can Be Turned to a Social Sustainable Place?

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**Abstract:** *According to cities development and abundant tendency of people to live in them, lack of sites for construction has been a remarkable issue for architectures. They solve this problem by dedicating more lands to more buildings to accommodate more population. Hence, open area such as local squares which were the main place for people interactions lose their function.*

*The main purpose of this paper is representing the process of turning open area through residential regions to a social sustainable space.*

*In this regard, after representing basic meaning of residential open spaces and various activities in that area, and description of different approaches in formation of urban open area, the result shows how an open area among residential congestion could become a social sustainable place. Then some factors which have great role in meeting social needs of individuals and contribute in their satisfaction of that place will be discussed.*

*Results show that social, cultural and physical factors in these spaces interfere in meeting partial people needs. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs these factors contribute in individual's satisfaction from that space, as a result place identification, plurality, presence continuity social activities will be formed in that certain area where is a place for sustainable social interactions. The research methodology was librarian research and reviewing of last research about social sustainability in urban places. Then with analysing those data, the process of turning open area in urban congestion to sustainable places will be represented.*

**Keywords:** "Residential Open Spaces", "Social Sustainability", "Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs", "Satisfaction"

## 1. Introduction

By developing cities and the growing trend of people to live in them, the scarcity of land was considered. Architects and urban planners found that the solution of this problem is to allocate more urban spaces to dense residential buildings. Thus many people were living in crowded residential areas and the open spaces between buildings in Maslow where indigenous people had a direct meeting, either disappeared or lost its original function. Living in urban and residential areas devoid of the Spirit of life Reliance on cars and functional separation of cities and towns makes cities more boring. Connection with People, visit and talk to each other in analogy with the experience of building and Soulless objects of current life, made motivation for seeking public spaces in residential areas. Direct meetings in public spaces can now be replaced by indirect relation by media. so people have lost presence in social activities with other people. These factors were cause the formation of a massive incentive of intense physical and spatial planning against Modern urbanism. Architects knew necessity of anew urban need and it is a communal spaces within the building where should be shaped, and can be a container for sustainable social interactions. In this paper we'll explain the process that an outdoor space will be turned into a sustainable residential community. Methods of this article is based on a review of documentation by librarian study which is related to factors interfere in formation of social sustainable places. Then with interpretive analysis and inference, the process in which a residential outdoor turn into a sustainable social environment is described.

## 2. Sustainable Development

The most enduring definitions of sustainability are founded on the 1987 'Brundtland Report'. The concept of sustainable development is the result of the growing awareness of world connections between environmental growing problems social, economic, poverty and inequality issues and concerns about the safe future of mankind. Sustainable development, binds environmental social and economic issues [4]. In a general definition, development that meets the needs of present and future generations. In other words focus on development according to people and justice for needs of present and future generations [5]. In General, sustainable development can be based on three main modalities of social, economic and environmental described.

- **Environmental:** An environmentally sustainable system must maintain a stable Resource base, avoiding over-exploitation of renewable resource systems or Environmental sink functions, and depleting non-renewable resources only to the extent That investment is made in adequate substitutes. This includes maintenance of Biodiversity, atmospheric stability, and other ecosystem functions not ordinarily classed as economic resources.
- **Economic:** An economically sustainable system must be able to produce goods and Services on a continuing basis, to maintain manageable levels of government and external debt, and to avoid extreme sectorial imbalances which damage agricultural or Industrial production. [10].
- **Social:** evolution of civil society, fostering an environment conducive to the Compatible cohabitation of culturally and socially diverse groups while at the same time encouraging social integration, with improvements in the quality of life for all segments of the population [2]. Physiological needs are basic: The body craves food, liquid, sleep, oxygen, sex, freedom of movement, and a moderate temperature. When any of these are in short supply, we feel the distressing tension of hunger, thirst, fatigue, and shortness of breath, sexual frustration, confinement, or the discomfort of being too hot or cold. These irritants compel us to seek the missing commodity so that our body can return to homeostasis-a system in balance or at rest [10].

## 3. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

According to Maslow's theory, there are four types of needs that must be satisfied before a person can act unselfishly. The needs are arranged in a hierarchical order. The most basic drives are physiological. After that comes the need for safety, then the desire for love, and then the quest for esteem [6].

### 3.1. Physiological needs

Physiological needs are basic: The body craves food, liquid, sleep, oxygen, sex, freedom of movement, and a moderate temperature. When any of these are in short supply, we feel the distressing tension of hunger, thirst, fatigue, and shortness of breath, sexual frustration, confinement, or the discomfort of being too hot or cold. As long as the body feels substantially deprived, it marshals all its energies in the service of satisfying these demands.

### 3.2. Safety Needs

The safety needs operate mainly on a psychological level. But once we've managed a certain level of physical comfort, we'll seek to establish stability and consistency in a chaotic world.

### 3.3. Love and Belongingness Needs

After physiological and safety needs are fulfilled, the third layer of human needs are social and involve feelings of belonging. Humans need to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance, whether

It comes from a large social group or small social connections (family members, intimate partners, mentors, close colleagues, confidants). In the absence of these elements, many people become susceptible to loneliness, social anxiety and clinical depression.

### 3.4. Esteem Needs

All humans have a need to be respected and to have self-esteem and self-respect. Also known as the belonging need, esteem presents the normal human desire to be accepted and valued by others. People need to

engage themselves to gain recognition and have an activity or activities that give the person a sense of contribution, to feel accepted and self-valued, be it in a profession or hobby. Imbalances at this level can result in low self-esteem or an inferiority complex.

### 3.5. Self-Actualization: The Ultimate Goal

Maslow described the need for self-actualization as “the desire to become more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming. Self-actualization can take many forms, depending on the individual. These variations may include the quest for knowledge, understanding, peace, self-fulfilment, meaning in life, or beauty.

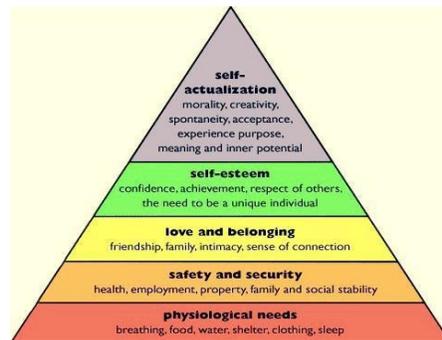


Fig. 1: Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

## 4. Open Spaces

Residential open spaces are used as a balanced areas in cities. In addition residential open spaces are a manifestation of the nature of social life. Residential open spaces, while providing opportunities for growth, creativity, Social interactions and applications such as communication, relaxation, entertainment are effective in reducing pollution and improving the living environment [18].

Open spaces create an area for both planned and automatic activities in a natural setting. Landscape elements in open area that provide interactions with users would encourage users' engagement with open spaces. For users who would like to release their minds from daily routines and seek relaxation, an element which can serve their interests would calm their tense nerves [18].

## 5. Outdoor Activities In Public Spaces

Outdoor activities in public spaces can be classified into 3 groups:

- Essential activities
- Optional activities
- Social activities

### 5.1. Essential Activities

Essential activities are those in a state of more or less mandatory. Generally, daily activities which are essential for life belong to this group. These activities have no significant impact from the environment and continuously is performed at a certain time interval [10].

### 5.2. Optional activities

Optional activities are done when people are willing to do them. These activities would occur only if the external environment and the weather conditions are favourable and inviting place. When the external environment is not suitable for human needs, only essential activities are performed.

### 5.3. Social Activities

Social activities more than anything dependent on the presence of others in public spaces such as Children game, meetings and short chat. Motion in the neighbourhood can be done in a variety of purposes. The main

difference between the movement and access in the neighbourhood scale compared to larger units, such as (City, region, country) is dramatically direct to connection with life and household. This space can show the quality of the urban, and according to the shape and the size and quality of their surrounding environment, cover the concepts of space and sense of place [10]. According to this view, one of the pillars of the city that contains mentioned spaces in urban areas which have significant role and function more than just transit. These spaces are designed with a variety of functions where can be a container for optional and social activities. During last Decades factors in shaping the social dimensions of sustainable open spaces has been the recognized that in order to achieve well-being and even survival of the human, planning to create spaces that serve human needs and make their satisfaction is necessary. The first priority of any architecture is the human need [1]. The purpose of this section is representing the factors that affect satisfaction of the individual in the neighbourhood. These factors are classified into the following title:

## **6. Effective Physical Factors**

The physical aspect of location has directly effect on interest and then resident's satisfaction. Physical factors that play a role in causing these feelings are as follows:

### **6.1. Attractiveness and Amiability**

For the residential environment associated with the spirit of the citizens and provide sufficient motivation for social life, should be attractive and pleasant [18]. In the Gordon Cullen view all components of the environment must somehow be linked together. The link between function, scale, proportion, colour, texture, identity, integration, coordination and linkages between the elements of the environment make it pleasant [8]. Visual effects of space have a significant impact on the perception of the external environment [14]. Many studies of housing construction show visual quality and attractive buildings designs are important factors influence on people's satisfaction [7].

### **6.2. Complexity or Diversity**

Providing opportunities to explore, search and perception of the environment, which is an important factor in shaping the human personality and the development of children's intelligence can play a significant role in the attraction of the environment [18]. The rich diversity of the environment, whether training in the use of different senses, such as sight, hearing and touch, through the creation of a variety of colour, sound, texture, can be provided.

### **6.3. Readability**

Residential space must be legible. An acceptable urban space is the one that is well understood by specific boundaries and the continuous paths for pedestrians crossing exist [12]. While people are attracted to a variety of environments, they need to understand the integrity of the space in which they feel safe.

### **6.4. Easy Access to Public Open Spaces**

Easy access to open spaces in residential areas attracts people and activities to that space. If access to the area is difficult or access routes detection for individuals is not easy, they will be less inclined to participate in outdoor activities among residential areas. Typically, there are elderly or children in the users. First group due to physical conditions and second Group due to security issues need to face unambiguous and easy routs.

### **6.5. Boundaries Determination of Public And Private Spaces**

This is one of the factors in attracting people to public open spaces. When the Boundaries of public and private sectors of the space can be easily determined, people have indirect surveillance on the outdoor and direct surveillance on living space. Thus people are involved in the control of place. So they will participate in the creation of security. This partnership and ensure the security have the key role in attracting people to the space.

### **6.6. Green Space**

The presence of open green space among buildings resulted in increased motivation for participation in the mentioned spaces. people have great pleasure of contact with nature, such as viewing the sunset, see the seasonal

changes, the smell of leaves and flowers, walking on soft grass, observing insects, birds and animals were obtained and expressed their understanding. These issues all indicate that human needs for Green spaces [1].

### 6.7. The Human Scales

Space must have a **The Human Scales** to the individuals to have sense of tranquillity.

## 7. Social Factors

Positive relationship between the individuals and the place and their spiritual satisfaction, Strengthen social ties in place. Some researchers, determine place attachment and satisfaction based on the participation of the people in the place, dealing with social networks and cultural exchanges which have a role equally or even more important than the physical features[3].

- **Public participation, critical to a successful planning site.** Public participation movement of the 1970s and 1980s tried to find out what people wanted, was conducted[1]. Providing partnership while reflecting the expectations and needs of individuals in the place, determines the quality of life in the future. Participation in the process of creating space will be the cause of the development of social relationships, a sense of peace and security in place. The presence rate and repeated interaction with social network and sites leading to a sense of place and identity formation [16].
- **The identity of the place makes individual and the area two inseparable elements.** Place identity is the one aspect of self which explain the identity of the individuals in relation to the place according to the beliefs, preferences, feelings, values related to that place [16]. Formation of place identity contributes to make people more eager to participate in that place activities .The positive sense of place creates the conditions for people that forsaking the place make them disturbed. This is one of the most important human needs which belong to social groups in place and it is provided by promoting place identity among people

## 8. Cultural Factors

Generally people feel comfort and satisfaction in an atmosphere that it has been previously known. Some factors are interfere in making a place more familiar to people such as:

- 8.1. Familial subscriptions:** Kinship relations in the open spaces of residential users has resulted more people in these environments.
- 8.2. Common vision and philosophy of the universe:** Religious views and mythology of a culture leads to shared worldview and impressive on the individuals and their attachment to the place.
- 8.3. Religious and Ritual in common** this type of subscription is part of the cultural factors that can make a profound empathy in users. This factor can be seen dramatically in, indigenous neighbourhood in Iran. Open spaces in the neighbourhoods of a city has been the place to hold religious rituals or national holidays like the New Year's celebration[3].Space is associated with customs, is stabilizer of human behaviour. As long as urban areas are not affected specific cultural target, will have a completely neutral existence [12].

## 9. How Humans Adapt to the Needs According to Maslow Pyramid Factors

Human needs are divided into three groups: physiological, psychological and social. According to Maslow's hierarchy human needs begin in level of psychological needs, and follow higher levels of more complex psychological motivation. Researchers reviewed significant success factors for socially sustainable projects refer to maintenance and improvement of well-being of current and future generations. Urban developments in order to be socially sustainable should create a harmonious living environment, reduces social inequality and divides, and improves quality of life in general. These identified significant success factors are provision of social infrastructure, availability of job opportunities, accessibility, townscape design, preservation of local characteristics, ability to fulfil psychological needs [15].So, ability to fulfil psychological needs is one of important factor in promoting social sustainability. When physical, social and cultural factors based on what was said in a residential outdoor exist, meet the needs which are in various stage of Maslow pyramid and are essential for satisfaction of a space:

- **Feeling security:** through readability of space and understanding the totality of space. As well as recognition of other users which occurred through social interaction. On the other hand, an indirect participation in the control of area is effective in securing it.
- **Join to others and accepted, approved and recognized by others:** These needs are provided by presence of people in social activities which is supported by considering mentioned physical, social and cultural factors in designing process.
- **To belong**
- **Cognize, exploring, understanding:** A legible space but with diversity and complexity either provide the need of probe of users, or help to understand the totality of environment.

Fulfilling these requirements leads to a sense of satisfaction and belonging to the space of its users. People find attachment to a specific space when it provided them with their needs and expectations. Therefore, they will be absorbed to it and they will seek care and attention to it. The result is a desire to live with others and purposeful manner to keep stable attachment.

## 10. Conclusion

Tendency to live in cities and residential areas devoid of the Spirit of life due to the industrialization of the cities has resulted in monotonous and more boredom cities in last decades. Urban public spaces have been dedicated to residential areas to build more building to accommodate more residents. Destruction and ignorance of these areas causes fading optional and social activities in them. As a result individuals have less tendency to participate in social interactions. The open spaces in crowded urban complexes, especially in residential areas and the presence of physical, social, cultural factors can be effective in the development of sustainable communities. In fact, some factors interfere in the process of becoming a residential outdoor space to a sustainable social place such as:

- **Physical factors:** Attractiveness and amiability: Complexity or diversity, Readability: Easy access To, public open spaces, Boundaries determination of public and private spaces, Green space, The Human Scales
- **Social factors:** People's participation in social activities in space, Employment of social networks and cultural interactions
- **Cultural factors:** Familial subscriptions, Common vision and philosophy of the universe, Religious and Ritual in common. These factors by providing people with their partial needs in this area creates the feeling of satisfaction. As it mentioned ability to fulfil psychological needs is one of significant aims of social sustainability. The repetition of presence and interaction with area causes the formation of desire and attachment to space. This positive sense of place for the people make the remarkable attachment for them. In this situation the person will be responsible for what is going on in this area and participate consciously in social interaction more than before. The conscious, constant participation in the space with other people will make sustainable relationships in the area. Thus, residential outdoor space will be container for social interaction.

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