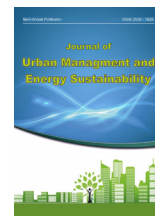


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CASE STUDY RESEARCH PAPER

The relationship between the presence of women in urban spaces and the indicator of urban desirability

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ABSTRACT

The desirability of an urban space depends on the ability of the space to respond to the needs of its users. Although women make up half of the population of cities, the needs of this group have not been paid much attention in the design and construction of urban spaces. In general, women have special needs in connection with urban open space due to their special personality characteristics and social role, which requires meeting and meeting their needs in urban spaces, and if the space is not able to meet the needs of all user groups, it cannot be done. Therefore, the creation of suitable and responsive urban spaces to the needs of women and the relationship between the environment and their activities affects the urban space. The main aim of the current research is to identify and analyze the indicator of urban desirability in relation to the presence of women in urban spaces. In this research, the descriptive and analytical method, the analysis and logical reasoning method, which is based on the structural analysis method, has been used. Mic MAC software was used to analyze the data. The statistical population for carrying out the Delphi model was selected through purposive sampling, which includes 20 experts in the field of urban management, designers and city planners, experts in the field of women's presence in urban spaces, who were selected using the method of structural analysis and software. Mic Mac, the effectiveness of indicator and driving forces are extracted. According to the results of the Delphi model and structural analysis, 5 decisive and influential driving forces include: comfort and convenience with a weight of 718, night safety with a weight of 686, physical access with a weight of 680, mandatory activities with a weight of 653 and the possibility of choosing activities With a weight of 650, they directly affect the presence of women in urban spaces. Also, 5 risk driving forces including: safety with a weight of 653, daily safety with a weight of 604, social interaction with a weight of 600, leisure time with a weight of 588 and desire to participate with a weight of 580 indirectly affect the presence of women in urban spaces.

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INTRODUCTION

The desirable urban space for women is a space that provides safety, compatibility with behavioral patterns, permeability, attention to weather, liesure, collective memory, diversity, complexity and identity. These factors motivate the presence of women in urban public spaces and contribute to their full citizenship (Carrera, Marina, 2023). However, the presence of women in the public space is often less than that of men due to social and cultural acceptances, women's responsibilities and inappropriate urban space practices. Gender mainstreaming in urban planning and design is critical to creating inclusive urban public spaces that consider women's experiences and perceptions of space (Kiara et al, 2022). The material manifestation of a patriarchal society in the built environment perpetuates gender inequality, but women have made significant contributions to cities through their activism and advocacy for better services and amenities. To create favorable urban spaces for women, it is important to prioritize their safety, address sociological aspects and involve them in decision-making processes.

Today's cities, despite having more facilities compared to the past, are unable to meet the needs of their residents in better use of urban spaces. Improper urban construction and planning affects the use of urban spaces by different strata of society, so that sometimes due to the lack of sufficient attention, the elderly, disabled, children and women are deprived of a desirable urban life. Meanwhile, women have problems in enjoying urban spaces due to social and cultural restrictions in the country. Considering the increasing role of women in the society, the raising of important issues in the theoretical texts of urban planning and design, the need to be present in the space for all groups, regardless of gender, age, income level, and occupation, seems essential. Therefore, urban planners and designers have taken steps to strengthen the presence of women in urban spaces. Due to the fact that the behavioral patterns of women and men and their perception of the environment

are different, they also have different needs and expectations from urban spaces, women are a large part of urban space users who have their own needs in relation to urban space. Identifying the needs of women in urban spaces is an important step towards the presence of these people in urban spaces (Qaraei, 2018).

The desirability of urban space for women is an important issue in the field of urban planning and urban design. Women in all societies have their own rights and roles, and therefore they should be given a proper and fair space in the city. One of the important factors that affect the desirability of urban space for women is the proper distribution of public equipment and services. Women seek easy access to facilities such as parks, shopping malls, bus and subway stations, hospitals, and entertainment venues. If these equipments are available in the right places and in sufficient numbers, women can easily go about their daily tasks and participate fully in the city. Also, safety in urban space is very important for women. Women need to feel safe so that they can move liesurely and safely in the city. This includes proper lighting in dark streets and passages, access to safety facilities such as police and emergency centers, and the presence of active safety forces in the city. The important issue is that despite the existence of public spaces, with a quality that is not suitable for all citizens, the amount of women's use and their active presence in the urban space is much less than that of men. Even if there is a suitable urban space, the possibility of using urban space is limited for this group (Haji Ahmadi and Jahan-shahlou, 2014).

Based on this, the aim of the current research is to analyze the indicator of urban desirability in relation to the presence of women in urban spaces in order to be able to answer the question that the presence of women in urban spaces depends on what factors? Are the physical-structural factors responsible for the low presence of women in urban spaces, or have social and cultural factors also affected the presence or absence of women in these spaces?

The importance and necessity of research

There is a necessity and need to attend and enjoy urban spaces and the need to communicate and interact socially for all classes and groups of society, including women. The presence of women in urban public spaces is one of the indicators that show progress and development, and ignoring them causes problems in the daily life of women and families and ultimately challenges in the society. Women, like other social groups, by continuing to be present in the public and social arenas of the cities, provide more constructive, lively and stable conditions for public spaces. Therefore, one of the most important concerns of today's designers in improving the quality of public spaces is to reach a kind of collective spaces that can establish a stable balance between the presence of different social strata and their participation and activity in urban public spaces (Sifaei, 2014). Therefore, the creation of suitable urban spaces that respond to the needs of women and the relationship between the environment and activities in daily life, how and the amount of opportunities to use the existing urban spaces and their stronger presence in the urban space is important in order to be able to create suitable public spaces in the direction of To improve the quality of life and create a suitable environment for active urban life, where men and women, regardless of gender, as individuals in human society, can have equal opportunities in using the urban public space (Haji Ahmadi and Jahanshahloo, 2022). One of the main issues in designing and evaluating urban spaces is the basic needs of users in the city. There is a belief that without paying attention to these needs, space can cause many physical and psychological injuries to humans; Therefore, the goal of urban design is to create a suitable urban space for everyone, through recognizing the qualitative and spatial needs of living in the city for women, in order to improve the quality of life and create a suitable environment for active urban life (Pakzad, 2014) In the design and construction of urban spaces,

the needs of this group have not been paid much attention. In general, women have special needs in relation to urban open spaces due to their special personality traits and social role of caring for children, the elderly, and the sick, which require meeting and meeting the needs of women. They are in urban spaces, and if the space is not able to respond to the needs of user groups, it cannot be claimed that the space in question is a public and inclusive space (Danivi-Rad and Khajovi, 2013). In this way, women have sought a space for their daily life (as a gender issue) under the title of restoring their legal rights. They believe that their sexual experiences and views have been neglected by decision makers and politicians (Mohammadi, 2018) Today, the presence of women in various fields has increased significantly, and in many countries, especially in developed countries, women have claimed their rights to achieve a level of justice in their rights and needs. Therefore, considering the increasing presence of women in work environments and social activities, the optimal design of urban spaces is considered important in order to respond to their widespread presence in various fields (Farhadian and Nafti, 2013).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Litratue Review

In the field of the desirability of urban space for women, there are many theoretical foundations that examine and analyze the needs and rights of women in urban spaces.

- The theory of private and public spaces: this theory was proposed by Jane Jacobs in the book "Death and Life of Cities". He highlighted the importance of public spaces in the city and created spaces with suitable facilities and services for women and different people (Jacobs, 1961).
- Theory of citizenship rights: this theory deals with the concept of rights and obligations of citizens in urban spaces. As citizens with equal rights, women should also have equal access to urban spaces (Sandercock, 2003).

- The theory of urban feminism: This theory focuses on the analysis of urban spaces from a feminist point of view. It believes that urban spaces may be used to represent and reinforce differences and gender roles (Rose, 2016).
- Theory of women's spaces: this theory analyzes women's experience of urban spaces and its relationship with women's needs and rights. It emphasizes highlighting the importance of paying attention to women's experience and creating desirable and safe urban spaces for them (McDowell, 2017).
- These theories are only a few examples of theoretical foundations related to the desirability of urban space for women. All these theoretical foundations can be used as a guide to analyze the needs and problems of women in the urban space, as well as the design and development of suitable urban spaces for women.

Many researches have been conducted on the desirability of urban space for women. These researches were conducted in order to better understand the needs and problems of women in using urban spaces. These studies are presented in 3 categories as follows:

- Researches related to safety: Safety in the urban space is one of the vital things for women. Some researches focus on the level of women's experience of threats and dangers in the public space. The results of these studies show that women often face the fear of sexual assault, theft and violence. This limits the leisure movement of women in the city and creates fear and stress for them
- Researches related to access to equipment and services: These researches examine women's access to public equipment and services in the city. For example, some researches focus on women's access to public transportation, shopping places, health and education centers. The results of these studies show that areas with a lack of public equipment and services in the city can cause problems for women and cause restrictions in their daily lives.

- Researches related to urban design: this type of research focuses on the impact of urban design on the desirability of urban space for women. Studies show that urban design can have a significant impact on the feeling of safety, access to equipment and services, public spaces and women's participation in the urban space. For example, spaces with proper lighting and designs tailored to the needs of women can significantly improve the safety and use of urban spaces by women.
- These researches show that the desirability of urban space for women is a complex issue that is related to various aspects of women's lives in the city. According to these researches, urban planners and designers should pay attention to the needs and problems of women in the design and development of cities and create spaces that are attractive and desirable for women.

According to the examination of the theoretical foundations and background of the research, in the following table, the optimal indicator for the presence of women in urban spaces are presented (Tab. 1) :

Methodology

In this research, the descriptive and analytical method, the analysis and logical reasoning method, which is based on the structural analysis method, has been used. Mic Mac software was used to analyze the data. The interaction analysis method or the cross-over effect analysis method is an efficient and useful approach. Interaction analysis is a method for identifying mutual relationships. So that the influence of each trend on other trends is graded. In other words, CIA is a semi-quantitative method in which, instead of simple cause-effect relationships, interrelationships between different subsystems are analyzed in a matrix. In order to identify the indicators and evaluate them, the Delphi method and interviews were used to obtain the opinions of decision makers and experts. The statistical population for carrying out the Delphi model was selected through tar-

geted sampling, which includes 20 specialists in the field of urban management, city designers and planners, specialists in the field of women's presence in urban spaces.

In the analytical part, according to the theoretical foundations and background of the research, 6 physical components including: physical, access, Safety, sociability, activity and meaning were identified. Also, 15 indicator include: comfort, safety, comfort, physical accessibility, visual accessibility, daily safety, night safety, intention to participate, social interaction, optional activities, compulsory activities, leisure time, sense of belonging, respect And the feeling of pleasure was identified. Then the mentioned indicator were sent to the experts through Delphi method and using the structural analysis method and Mic Mac software, the effectiveness of the indicator and driving forces were extracted.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of variables
 In order to evaluate the influence of variables and their influence on each other, the cross-matrix method was used. In the cross matrix, the sum of the row numbers of each variable is the degree of influence and the sum of the columns of each variable also shows the degree of influence of that variable from other variables. Based on the analytical results of this matrix, comfort and convenience, night safety, physical access, mandatory activities and the possibility of choosing activities are among the indicators whose degree of influence is much higher than their degree of influence and most of the indicators of the aforementioned groups alone also have They are highly influential in the system. On the other hand, indicators of safety, daily safety, social interaction, liesure time and

Table (1): Desirable indicator for the presence of women

| Components | Indicators | Characteristics and features |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|
| Physical | Convenience | There is a space for sitting, taking into account the proportions of women in the design of the space, taking into account the facilities for children accompanying women, protection against adverse climatic conditions. Clear and legible entrances, separating riders from pedestrians Beautiful quality in space |
| | safety | |
| | comfort | |
| Accessesibility | Physically accessible | Access to public transportation services, access to parking Visibility |
| | Visually accessible | |
| Safety | Daily safety | Limiting the movement of horsemen and strengthening the movement of pedestrians, the establishment and placement of city signs and signs in appropriate places, the presence of the police The possibility of being seen by others, the absence of disturbance, providing sufficient and suitable lighting for night vision |
| | Night safety | |
| Sociability | Intention to participate | Designing behavioral camps for people to talk, creating safe and secure infrastructures for the presence of families in the space, the possibility of gender and age presence in the space in accordance with social and cultural habits and behaviors The participation of all user groups to improve the usefulness of the space |
| | Social interaction | |
| Activity | Optional activities | The possibility of talking and listening, the possibility of doing various activities, walking, the possibility of watching and observing others The possibility of shopping, the possibility of accompanying children to the kindergarten, the possibility of accompanying the elderly to the doctor's office Considering a space for walking and cycling, creating reception and service spaces |
| | Compulsory activities | |
| | liesure time | |
| Semantic | sense of belonging | The feeling of being in the right place at the right time, maintaining and strengthening memorable uses Absence of disturbing factors, the feeling of paying attention to needs and wants The feeling of satisfaction from being in the right space, facilities and services |
| | respect | |
| | feeling pleasure | |

intention to participate can be considered as influential groups, although the dispersion of influence and influence within each group is accompanied by fluctuation, but in general, they can be considered dependent variables with He found it effective.

System environment analysis

The way the variables are distributed in the scatter plane indicates the level of stability or instability of the system. In the methodology and analysis section of MikMak, two types of distribution are defined, which are known as stable systems and unstable systems. In stable systems, the distribution of variables is in the form of English L, which means that some variables have high influence and some have high influence. In stable systems, the total of three categories of variables can be seen:

A: Variables highly influencing the system (key factors)

B: independent variables

C: system output variables (result variables)

In this system, the position of each factor is clearly defined and its role can be presented clearly. On the other hand, in unstable systems, the situation is more complicated than in stable systems. In this system, the variables are scattered around the diagonal axis of the screen, and the variables often show an intermediate state of influence and effectiveness, which makes it very difficult to evaluate and identify key factors. However, in this system, ways have been drawn that can be a guide for selecting and identifying key factors (Godet, 2003). What can be understood from the scatter plot of the variables influencing the desirability of urban spaces in the presence of women is the extremely unstable state of the system. Most of the variables are scattered around the diagonal axis of the plane, except for a few limited factors that show that they have a high influence on the system, the rest of the variables are almost similar to each other, only their intensity and weakness are different. In the scatterplot analysis of the variables of the desirability of urban

spaces effective in the presence of women, the following variables can be identified in the system: Determining or influencing driving forces: Considering the identification of the system as an unstable system, the existence of high-level influencing factors at the far end of the diagram in the northwest side seems unlikely because this place has more variables in stable systems with this Now, several factors are shown near this area, which indicates their ability to influence the entire system (Tab. 2):

Table (2): Decisive or influencing driving forces

| No | Factor |
|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | comfort and convenience |
| 2 | Night safety |
| 3 | Physical access |
| 4 | Compulsory activities |
| 5 | Ability to choose activities |

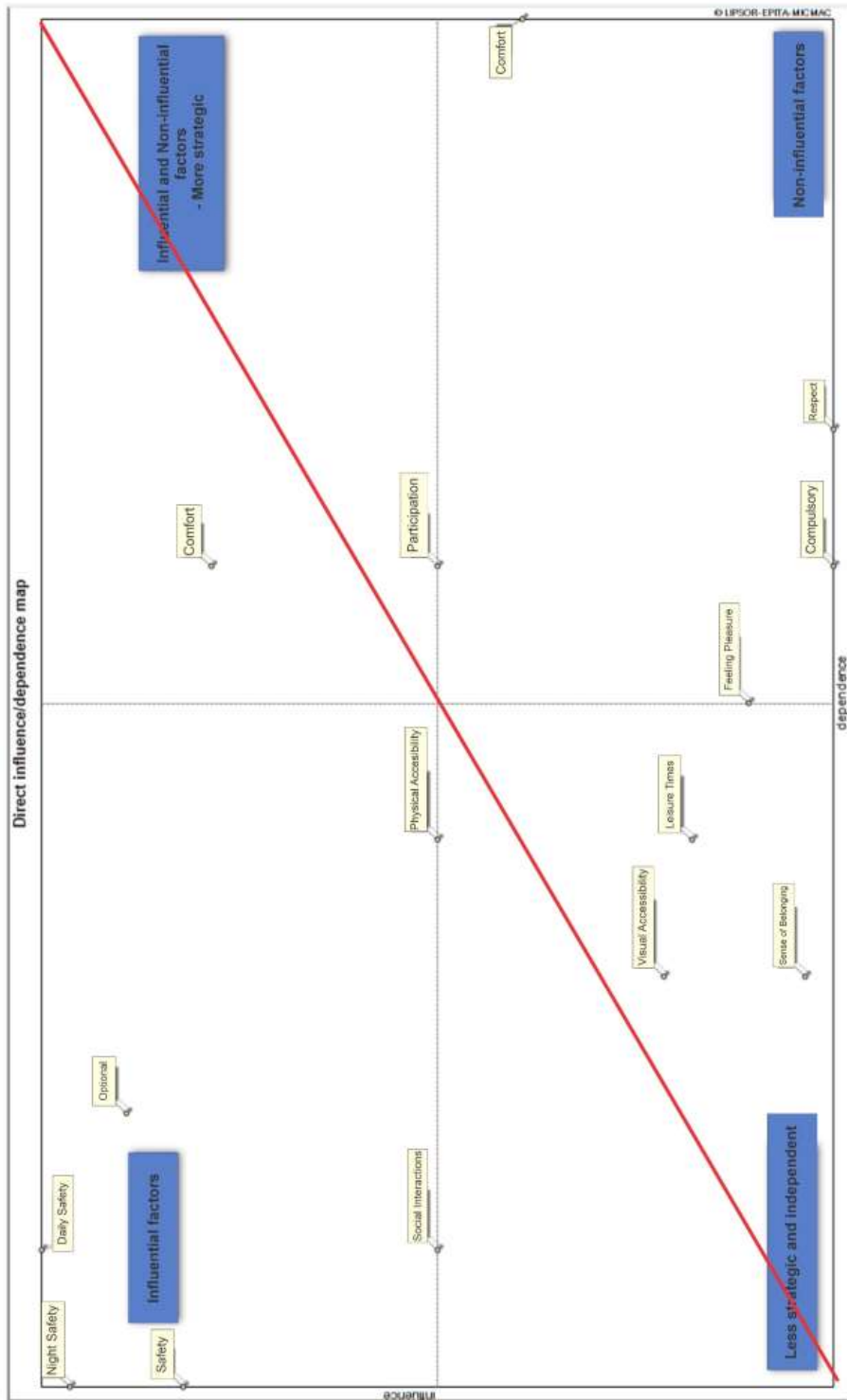
Bidirectional driving forces: these variables have two common characteristics of high influence and high influence, and any action on these variables will cause a reaction and change on other variables. These variables can be divided into two groups: risk variables and target variables. Out of the total of 15 variables, 5 variables are in this group. Two-dimensional variables are divided into two categories: risk variables and target variables (Tab.3):

Table (3): Risk driving forces

| No | Factor |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | safety |
| 2 | Daily safety |
| 3 | Social interaction |
| 4 | Lesuire time |
| 5 | intention to participate |

According to the results of the Delphi model and the structural analysis presented in the table below, 5 decisive and influential driving forces include: comfort and convenience with a weight of 718, night safety with a weight of 686, physical access with a weight of 680, man-

Diagram 1: shows the distribution map of the forces and their position in the influence axis based on the output of the Meek Meek software:



datory activities with The weight of 653 and the possibility of choosing activities with the weight of 650 are directly effective on the presence of women in urban spaces. Also, 5 risk driving forces including: safety with a weight of 653, daily safety with a weight of 604, social interaction with a weight of 600, leisure time with a weight of 588 and desire to participate with a weight of 580 indirectly affect the presence of women in urban spaces. In fact, the presence of women in urban spaces is affected by the desirability indicator of urban spaces through 5 main driv-

ing forces and 5 risk driving forces as secondary factors.(Tab. 4)

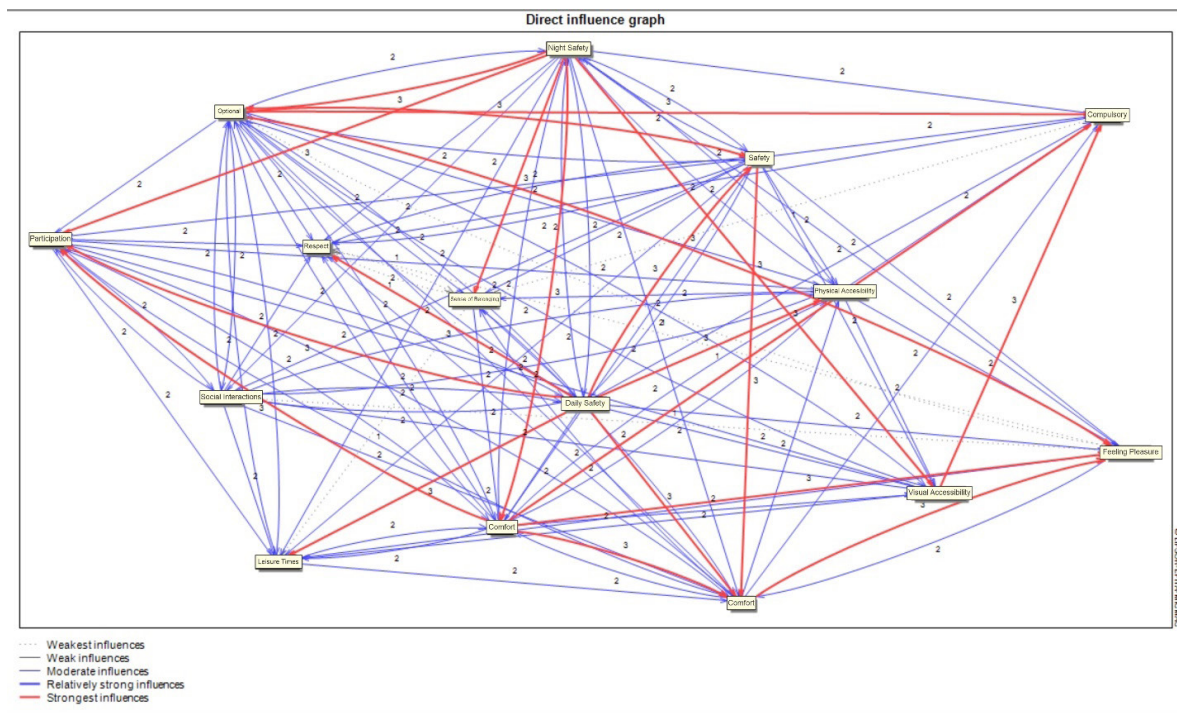
The diagram below shows the relationships between the effective driving forces in the presence of women in urban spaces affected by urban desirability indicator. The red lines indicate the strong influence and the blue lines are the moderating forces.

Explaining the effective components and dimensions in the presence of women in urban spaces

Table (4): Rank and weight of direct and indirect effects of forces

| Rank | Variable | direct effect | Variable | Direct dependency |
|------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | comfort and convenience | 718 | Safety | 653 |
| 2 | Night safety | 686 | Daily safety | 604 |
| 3 | Physical access | 680 | Social interaction | 600 |
| 4 | Compulsory activities | 653 | liesure time | 588 |
| 5 | Ability to choose activities | 650 | in to participate | 580 |

Diagram (2): Relationships between the effective driving forces in the presence of women in urban spaces affected by urban desirability indicator



Accessibility component

Table (5): principles affecting the access component

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|--|--|---|
| Physically accessible | Access to parking | Equipped with CCTV |
| | | Installation of parking in commercial uses |
| | | Use bright lamps |
| | Access to public transportation services | Standardization of the quality of public transportation |
| Increasing the number and working hours of public transportation | | |
| Visually accessible | visibility | Better readability and visibility for navigation |
| | | Use the signs and signs to find your way |
| | | Good lighting so users can see and be seen |

Safety component

Table (6): principles affecting the category of safety

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|--------------|---|--|
| Daily safety | Limit the cavalry and strengthen the infantry | Providing welfare facilities to women on foot |
| | | Using separators with suitable vegetation |
| | Access to help | Police presence |
| | | Telephone access and emergency assistance |
| Night safety | Crime Prevention | Education and awareness and presentation of programs |
| | | Identification and collection of disturbing factors |
| | watcher eyes | Encouraging people and businesses to fence and monitor their environment |
| | | Improving lighting, installing closed-circuit cameras |

Sociability component

Table (7): Principles affecting the sociability component

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Social interaction | Strengthening the social presence of women | Equipping the space with suitable furniture for collective conversation |
| | | Equipping bus stations |
| | Development of social camps | Creating entertainment and leisure spaces |
| | | Physical shaping |
| Intention to participate | Strengthening women's sense of participation | Education and awareness and presentation of programs |
| | | Formation of cooperative groups in urban affairs |
| | Formation of cultural activities | Creating places for education and awareness |
| | | Street art show |

*Activity component***Table (7):** principles affecting the activity component

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Optional activities | The possibility of walking | Flooring suitable for passing |
| | | Create a path for cyclists |
| | | Creating attractive and beautiful routes |
| | Dialogue | Creating hangouts for women to gather |
| Compulsory activities | Possibility of purchase | Creating mixed uses to meet daily needs |
| | | Creating welfare and service complexes for women |
| | Perform various activities | Strengthening the center of special activities for women (sports, cultural, educational activities) |
| | | Necessary facilities for daily activities |
| Liesure time | Providing recreation and entertainment services | Using street cafes in terms of climatic and cultural comfort |
| | | Creating recreational and entertainment places for women |

*Physical component***Table (8):** Principles affecting the physical component

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Comfort and peace | Climatic comfort | Creating canopy and vegetation |
| | Providing welfare facilities and services | Ability to meet daily needs |
| | | Suitable flooring |
| | | Facilities and services for accompanying children |
| | Compliance with design proportions | Compliance with the proportions of the plan, stairs, floors and... |
| Safety | Separation of cavalry from infantry | Use appropriate plant cover |
| | | Paying attention to the safety of crossing the street |
| | Identification and removal of disturbing factors | Create obstacles for motorcyclists |
| | | Create a path for cyclists |
| | Beautiful quality | The use of traditional patterns and the appropriate combination of views |
| Use of happy colors in space | | |

Semantic component

Table (9): principles affecting the semantic component

| Component | Indicator | Effective principles |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Sense of belonging | Maintaining and strengthening memorable uses | Using elements and signs to show identity and culture |
| | | Strengthening uses and valuable architectural elements |
| | The effect of time in space | Creating inclusive spaces with use at different times |
| Respect | Association of cultural meanings | Synchronizing performance and body with traditional pattern |
| | | Coordinate the walls in terms of the age and quality of the elements |
| | Absence of disturbing factors | Determination of privacy and public Dealing seriously with intruders |
| Feeling pleasure | The feeling of satisfaction from being in the space | Increasing greenery in the space |
| | | Creating hangouts for different ages |
| | Appropriate facilities and services | Access to service providers for women |
| | | Necessary facilities for keeping and accompanying children and the elderly |

RESULT AND CONCLUSION

In this research, the descriptive and analytical method, the analysis and logical reasoning method, which is based on the structural analysis method, has been used. Mic Mac software was used to analyze the data. In order to identify the indicators and evaluate them, the Delphi method and interviews were used to obtain the opinions of decision makers and experts. The statistical population for carrying out the Delphi model has been selected through targeted sampling, which includes 20 experts in the field of urban management, designers and city planners, experts in the field of the presence of women in urban spaces. In the analytical part, according to the theoretical foundations And the background of the research, 6 physical components were identified including: physical, access, safety, sociability, activity and meaning. Also, 15 indicator include: comfort, safety, comfort, physical accessibility, visual accessibility, daily safety, night safety, intention to participate, social interaction, optional activities, compulsory activities, leisure time, sense of belonging, respect And the feeling of pleasure was identified. Then, the mentioned indicator were sent to the experts through Delphi method and using the structural analysis

method and Mic Mac software, the effectiveness of the indicator and driving forces were extracted. What can be understood from the scatter plot of the variables influencing the desirability of urban spaces in the presence of women is the extremely unstable state of the system. Most of the variables are scattered around the diagonal axis of the plane, except for a few limited factors that show that they have a high influence on the system, the rest of the variables are almost similar to each other, only their intensity and weakness are different. According to the results of the Delphi model and structural analysis, 5 decisive and influential driving forces include: comfort and convenience with a weight of 718, night safety with a weight of 686 , physical access with a weight of 680, mandatory activities with a weight of 653 and the possibility of choosing activities With a weight of 650, they directly affect the presence of women in urban spaces. Also, 5 risk driving forces including: safety with a weight of 653, daily safety with a weight of 604, social interaction with a weight of 600, leisure time with a weight of 588 and desire to participate with a weight of 580 indirectly affect the presence of women in urban spaces.

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