

Analysis of the Quality of Pilgrimage Walkways in Historical Context Around Holy Places Case Study: Bagh Hassan Khan Passage in the Peripheral Context of Imam Reza Holy Shrine

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Abstract

Pilgrimage walkways are one of the obvious linear elements of most pilgrimage cities in the world that in such urban spaces, pilgrims and tourists faces from their entrance to that city to the time of arriving at the holy place and its main court. Such a linkage between people and place leads to the unity of people and the creation of faith and special lifestyles such that these kinds of walkways can be introduced as a cultural pattern and global heritage. Currently, limited studies have been conducted to investigate the qualities of designing Pilgrimage walkways based on Iranian and Islamic culture. The methodology of this research is descriptive and analytical and data gathering has been done by library and field methods. The case study is Bagh Hassan Khan passage in the peripheral context of Imam Reza holy shrine in Mashhad city in Iran. In the process of research in the first step, the foundations and environmental qualities related to Pilgrimage walkways in the historical context around holy and Pilgrimage places have been investigated among conducted studies and the analysis of domestic and foreign documents and examples, and then the desired criteria and indicators have been extracted. In the second step, the quality assessment of the Bagh Hassan Khan passage has been conducted based on the opinions of residents and pilgrims and the hypotheses testing of the present research. To do so, 277 questionnaires have been distributed randomly in which related questions to the criteria of research have been provided. Excel and SPSS software have been used to analyze statistical data. The qualities of flexibility, liveliness and hygiene, readability and conceivability, safety and security, visual beauty and form, sense of belonging, warning and spiritual identification are the main criteria in the design qualities of Pilgrimage walkways in historical context around holy places which can provide a situation for pilgrims and tourists to enter a holy and spiritual place. The results of analyzing the opinions of pilgrims and users using the central concentration index show that more than half of the quality criteria are at the average and inappropriate level, also correlation analysis using the Chi-Square method shows that there is a significant relationship between the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions or problems. At the

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end of this research, some requirements and recommendations have been provided about the planning, designing, and composing rules for Pilgrimage walkways in the historical context around holy places.

Keywords: Holy Places, Historical Context, Pilgrimage, Walkway, Quality.

Introduction

Today, with the increasing growth of cities, Iran's cities have dealt with urban problems more than ever. Meanwhile, urban ancient regions, which were responsible space for the hierarchal needs of their residents, have no strong function due to technological developments and changes in living, social and economic needs. That these regions were the place and center of wealth and cities' power in the past, but in the current situation in most cities, they are weak in terms of infrastructures and urban services and imbalanced and unsustainable in terms of physics and other dimensions (Bouchani, 1998). Pilgrimage walkways are one of the obvious linear elements of most pilgrimage cities in the world in which pilgrims and tourists faces various Pilgrimage, cultural, commercial, service, etc. activities from their entrance to that city to the time of arriving at the holy place and its main court across these passages. These walkways make pilgrims ready for entering pilgrimage places. Therefore, the reason for paying attention to pilgrimage paths is that these paths were passed by walking and such characteristics have guaranteed the identity and the presence of the heart today, ignoring this movement and its decreasing presence has reduced environmental and appropriate qualities for achieving peace and the presence of the heart of pilgrims (Komeili, 2019).

The peripheral context of the Imam Reza holy shrine in Mashhad has many historical passages, with hundreds of years of archaism which have been linked to the lifestyle of the neighbors and pilgrims of the Imam Reza holy shrine. This linkage between people and place leads to the unity of people and the creation of faith and special lifestyles such that these kinds of walkways can be introduced as a cultural pattern and global heritage. By stating this issue, preserving and recognizing the two concepts of 1) historical and physical values, 2) cultural and spiritual values formed in this path of ritual paths and owning a public field and behavioral centers and positions and the place of holding ceremonies and rituals and historical and cultural evidence related to the pilgrimage which is formed in the historical context and mentioned as important issues in this field. Movement chaos in the context has not been seen too much and the structure of the balanced movement is created in it. Some categories of current value in historical works have been mentioned in the research background. Streets around Imam Reza holy shrine have higher economic value; but in contrast, contexts inside urban context lose their boom. Also, according to the conducted research between urban environment quality and social interactions and problems in social relationships, it can be seen that there is a close relationship and human interactions and activities are also developed in the environment by improving environmental qualities (Sajjadzade, Mohammadi, 2015). Scholars have mentioned a wide range of different factors in the field of the qualities of urban spaces and the compatibility of urban spaces to the needs and humans behavioral patterns (Barker, 1968: Altman, 1975: Whyte, 1985) Nasar & Yurdakul, 1990: Bahreini, 2005)). In the application of considered qualities, it should be mentioned that each of these qualities should be considered regarding its urban environment.

On the other hand, most of the mentioned qualities in urban spaces rely on the opinions of western scholars. Few researches have also described the quality of urban space regarding the condition of Iranian culture and in accordance with urban spaces. By reviewing these qualities, corresponding and applicable qualities can be considered. Therefore, some of these qualities are flexibility, liveliness and hygiene, readability and conceivability, safety and security, visual beauty and form, sense of belonging, warning, and spiritual identification (Sagha al-Islami & Rouhi, 2020). So, urban space around holy places should be able to provide a situation for entering a holy and spiritual place and also it should be able to take separate pilgrims from material space and bring him/her to spiritual spaces and remind their spiritual values and concepts. The current research is research on providing walking-oriented pilgrimage urban spaces having environmental appropriateness for Imam Reza holy shrine. On one side, it has considered operating the concept of pilgrimage and obtaining characteristics and criteria for designing pilgrimage urban space and during passing and arriving at the holy shrine of Ali ibn Moosa Al-Reza and on the other side, it has been tried to state appropriate qualities related to walkways and analyze and evaluate qualities and interactions in Bagh Hassan Khan passage by investigating the concepts of urban space, walkway and points, characteristics and expectations related to it. The main questions of this research are first, what criteria do leads to improving the quality of Pilgrimage walkways in historical contexts around holy places? And second, how much is the level of users' satisfaction with the passage to the Holy Shrine in Bagh Hassan Khan passage? Also, the research hypothesis in this regard is that it seems that there is a significant relationship between the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions or problems.

1-Historical Contexts

Historical context means a place that despite decay, has valuable buildings, facilities, and urban equipment (or a combination of them) (Sharan, 2005, 1-3).

Urban ancient contexts are creative and live places for understanding the condition of humans in the world and it is his/her linkage to the past, it is a place for the transformation of the environment and changing insight toward the present and future life (Habibi, 2006, 55). Our cities' historical contexts represent delicacy, beauty, culture, and public creative spirit as well as identity (Piran, 2005, 7). The restoration of historical context patterns is the management of a part of cultural resources to deepen spiritual and mental relationships as well as the formation of identity in urban life (Taherkhani, 2006, 98).

Structure and characteristics of historical context in the cities of Iran: In the ancient contexts of Iran's cities, the city center and the center of neighborhoods are connected through the main passages (Habibi, 2006, 55). Generally, the organization of the physics of Iran's cities focuses on the spatial link of the elements of the complex: 1-city center, 2-the centers of neighborhoods, through a series of spaces and linking elements, 3-main passages, 4-square (Taherkhani and Motavasseli, 2006, 102 & 104).

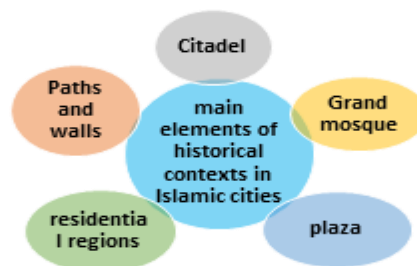
Characteristics of physical construction: In Islamic and traditional cities, the central part of the city is like an island that is surrounded by networks of walkways (Mir Mohammadi, 1996). Also, Bazars were located close to the gates of the city, on one side they ended along the main

ways to city centers, and on the other side, extended along the ways and main roads which continued out of the city and had spaces, internal and urban elements. Masques located in the city to make city distinguished from “village” and established three elements of constructing Islamic cities along with a citadel and Bazar (Mashhadizadeh, dehghani1994, 250).

Identity of historical context: Identity is a phenomenon that is formed in the historical context of a society. Over time, this sense of identity becomes internalized in an individual and guides the individual's behavior, and ultimately integrates the society. The created behavioral unity at the level of society searches for a body to meet the behavioral and psychological needs of the individual and the society. Also, an Islamic city, with its ideological plan, requires a specific behavior that can be implemented in its own body (Movahed et al., 2012, 46).

Physical elements – the function of historical context: Elements and components, which existed in the ancient cities of Iran, have a kind of spatial united interrelationship and they were coherent. In Islamic cities, spaces such as the Grand Mosque, Bazar, the center of government, residential spaces and as they preserve their special place, level, and characteristic in the hierarchy of urban spaces and establish a united complex together which represents the city as a united coherent and consistent space. The main elements in Islamic cities are as the following:

Diagram 1: The main elements of historical contexts in the Islamic cities of references (Daneshpour, 2015, 23)



In historical contexts, most of the paths and historical paths has been ended at holy places or linked to them in some ways due to their role and positions, on the other hand, the structural network of traditional context caused residential regions and their center connected like contiguous elements and has a significant relationship to other urban elements in terms of structure. Therefore, a complex context is formed in the center of holy places and has a direct relationship to this place in terms of function, while these holy places also include a part of the historical context of this complex.



Figure 1: The structure of historical contexts centered on holy places

1.2-Quality of Walkways as Urban Space:

Pedestrian paths or walkways are paths with the highest level of social role and they are places in which all citizens exist and participate in their collective life. These spaces are acted in the scale of all cities and accept all different groups of citizens. In addition to their connection and accessibility role, walkways provide a safe and comfortable place for social connection, trips, observation, etc. In walkways, pedestrians are so freehand to stop, pause, change their direction, and contact directly with others, and this issue improves and promotes urban culture and habits; such, it helps to respect the rights of others and the sense of responsibility toward the society, which can be considered as a living educational example and owns symbolic and special importance in the mental and objective perspective of the public, and as a place where social interactions save collective memories and mutual mentalities about the type and manner of civil life in the minds of citizens and require the most level of sensitivity and delicacy. Reviewing the literature of two last decades on designing urban spaces indicates that ignoring the role of pedestrians in urban space and exclusive attention to the movements of drivers and solving their different problems and ignoring organizing and planning the movement of pedestrians are one of the weaknesses of contemporary urban planning and leads in losing the qualities of current urban space. Therefore, human aspects and the need for improving the quality of walking-oriented urban spaces have been paid more attention today than in the past; because improving its quality influences the life of citizens directly. So, theoretical and practical study on the quality of urban space, in the field of knowledge and urban planning career is so important. One of the appropriate qualities in improving urban spaces is to provide a space to avoid routine life and mental and spiritual peace. A place that can be provided around holy and pilgrimage places especially.

Walkway, the factor of attracting tourists: Most cities have small areas that represent the attractions of that city for tourists and citizens such as commercial entertainment area, commercial tourism area, and central tourism area for tourism and non-tourism gatherings, makes these places attractive and pleasant for native residents and tourists. Burtenshaw states three categories for urban spaces that have the capability of transforming into tourism attractions: a) historical areas whose physical attractions attract tourists, b) cultural sections with entertainment and cultural services such as theatre, museum, art galleries, and cultural use, c) linear facilities such as streets with especial stores, borders inside the city, river banks and entertainment walking paths in the special parts of the city that historical context can also create an especial part of the city (Burtenshaw, 212, 1991).

Designing walkways in historical contexts: According to this issue that one of the main reasons for deterioration and destruction in the ancient contexts of Iran is cuts that have been created through new urban ways and this factor has significant disadvantages for the valuable physics of these contexts beside other factors. The design of walkways will be one of the appropriate solutions which can avoid the threat of more destruction and be influential for their organizing (Habibi, 2001, 47).

Investigating the experiences and important points for designing walkways in historical contexts: in this part, after studying the frameworks of designing historical walkways in

different cities of Iran and the world, it is tried to investigate criteria and components which are paid attention in designing pedestrian paths and after extracting and composing main components and the criteria of testing them in two sections of cultural and physical criteria, final qualities are scrutinized, the examples of designing in tourism walkways in historical contexts have been investigated in the following table:

Table 1. Examples of designing tourism walkways in historical contexts

Reference: (Ranjbar, Esmaeli, 2010: 89)

examples	Important points in designing
Rambla walkway- Barcelona, Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preserving the historical identity of the region and preserving past uses to improve the mental image of citizens ❖ Using distinguished elements as signs for emphasizing the beginning and end of the path ❖ Separating drivers and pedestrians more and creating enclosure and peace sense by using vegetation and light structures on both sides of walkways ❖ Increasing presence, vitality, and attractiveness because of providing comfort, spatial and functional diversity of different parts, and using attractive elements ❖ The high permeability of the path due to the proper placement of furniture, vegetation, and other limiting elements of space
Istiklal walkway, Istanbul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Using the historical identity of the region and developing this axis throughout the city ❖ Emphasizing spatial extension and continuity by using tram lines and changing floor construction of mixed land uses, affecting the attractiveness and vitality of path ❖ High buildings and the height consistency of the walls in most parts of the path create a strong sense of enclosure ❖ Overall coordination in most parts of the facade in terms of divisions, ground floor line, color, and type of materials ❖ Using lighting in creating a sense of continuity, persistence, and vitality in the path
Covent Garden, 1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Primary attention to historical preservation transforms into a factor for the revival ❖ Finding new uses and functions for using historical buildings and preserving them by appropriate restoration ❖ Reviving the streets of the region through the attendance of the public and their activities
The center of city of Tunisia, 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preserving historical heritage by developing cultural tourism which has become the basic of economic policy in Tunisia ❖ Preserving architectural heritage based on social purposes leads to developing social and economic structures in the city center

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Legislating appropriately to categorize historical memories and preserving programs of valuing historical heritage according to urban aesthetics, tourism cultural priority, economic priority, and traffic and transportation problems
Tarbiat walkway, Tabriz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Locating in the heart of the city and historical context ❖ The possibility of drivers' access in emergencies by removing the chain blocking this street, the variety of uses and guilds in the path ❖ Spatial diversity and environmental attractiveness by using gardens and fountains along the path ❖ Attention to the disabled persons in designing space, especially in the use of stone slabs in flooring, orderliness, and drivers' movement
Restoration of cultural-historical context (Sang siah, 1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ refining the environment and body-oriented refinement and historical buildings ❖ Increasing social security ❖ Tourist attraction ❖ Per capita increasing in green space and urban services
Karimkhani, Shiraz, 1990-1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enhancing the historical shadow in terms of space in the complex of creating an urban space for people's leisure ❖ Paying attention to the role and prosperity of the economy and commercial paths in the area and turning Zand Barik Street into a walkway

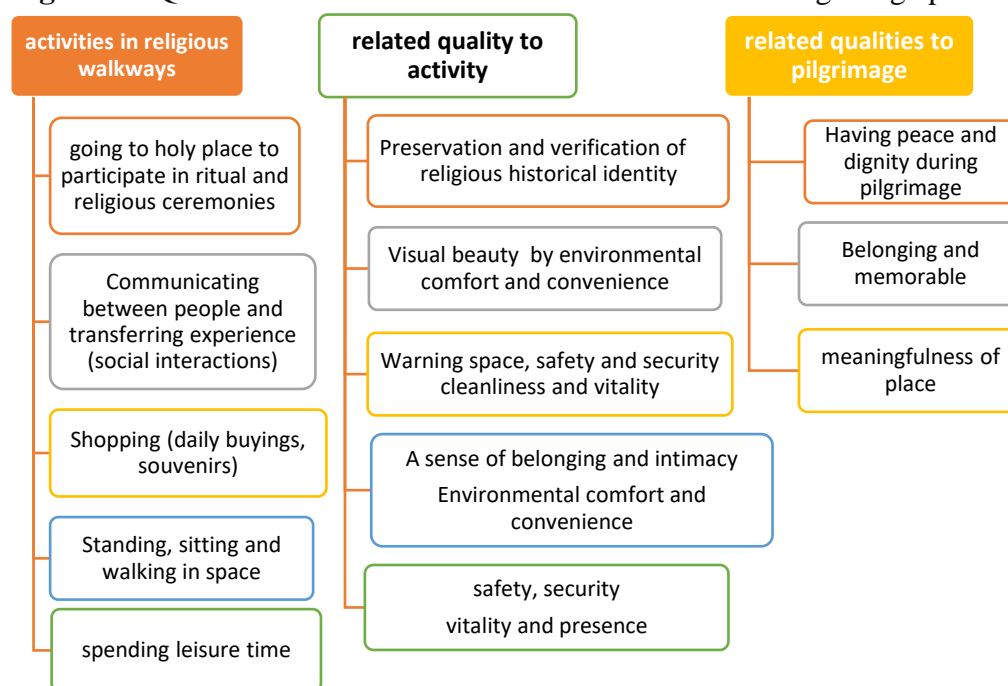
Pilgrimage walkways and their activity features

Generally, Pilgrimage walkways are related to the linkage of these paths to a distinguished Pilgrimage place and or around a Pilgrimage place such that pilgrims use them to go to and the presence of heart to this Pilgrimage place as visiting it and as a place for meeting their needs that this behavioral pattern is often formed over years and continues so the line of bazar has been created beside these paths which have different and unique features due to different activities in regions and different paths. For this purpose, to compose the effective components of the quality of the urban environment related to the needs and activities of pilgrims, the study of their activities and characteristics has been done, the results of which are as the following:

The researches show that the most important social behaviors of pilgrims in urban spaces around holy places are affected by several main activities. Among pilgrims' activities are observed such as: moving to arrive and visit the holy place, shopping activities, participating in Pilgrimage ceremonies, meetings, and conversation, spending leisure time and enjoying memorable, collective activities, walking and accommodating in complexes peripheral urban spaces around the holy places (Mousavi, Shinde, 2007; Rahimi & Khalili, 2014). Based on this issue, the types of activities of pilgrims in urban spaces around holy places can be divided into five main categories of activities including a- "visiting the holy place (on foot), participating in Pilgrimage ceremonies and rituals", b- "moving (driving) and movement exchanges of driving and walking", c- "standing and sitting and walking in space, meeting", d- "shopping (daily buying and souvenirs)", e- "spending leisure time and enjoying". In studying the behavior of pilgrims, the important point is that pilgrimage rituals determine some behaviors and these behaviors affect the needs and wishes of pilgrims (Aminzadeh, 2013). The study of the literature related to the concept of pilgrimage in Islamic culture shows that three issues that

are emphasized in the rituals of pilgrimage are also influential in the urban space and its design. A- One of the manners of visiting is that the pilgrim should walk calmly and dignified. B- One of the rituals of pilgrimage mentioned in Pilgrimage texts is “titivation”. C- Also, the urban environment around holy places should be able to provide the “psychological and spiritual preparation” for the pilgrim to perform the pilgrimage and be able to provide a background and situation for entering a holy and spiritual place. (Mousavi, 2015; Mohadesi, 2007). Research has shown that there is a close relationship between the quality of the urban environment and the activities in it, and by improving environmental qualities, human activities also expand in that environment (Gehl, 2011).

Diagram 2: Qualities related to the historical context around Pilgrimage places



Composing Criteria and Indicators of Walkways' Quality

Scholars mentioned a vast range of different factors in the field of the qualities of urban spaces and matching urban spaces and humans' behavioral patterns. In using mentioned qualities, it should be considered that each of these qualities is considered according to its own urban spaces. On the other hand, most mentioned qualities in urban spaces rely on the opinions of western scholars. Limited studies have been also conducted according to Iranian culture and in accordance with its urban spaces (Pakzad, 2005). By reviewing these qualities, corresponding and matching qualities can be considered. Also, according to the conducted investigations and extracting main criteria and their analysis with the previous studies related to the quality of designing walkways especially Pilgrimage ones, the composition of these qualities were done which are as the following: cleanliness and vitality, readable and imaginable, safety and security, visual beauty and form, belonging sense, warning, and spiritual identification. In table 2, each of these considered qualities and its related sub-criteria has been explained.

Table 2: Investigating and evaluating criteria (reference: writers)

Main criteria	Evaluating criteria
Flexibility	1. Open spaces for holding collective events 2. The diversity of economic and social activities in the path of visiting 3. Participating in ritual and Pilgrimage activities
Vitality and cleanliness	4. Green space 5. Beautifying the neighborhood 6. Cleaning and hygiene in the environment
Readable and imaginable	7. Urban signs appropriate to the historical environment 8. Active distinguished uses in space 9. Information and guidance boards on the pilgrim route
Safety and Security	10. Relief centers 11. Firefighting service 12. Presence of surveillance agents in the neighborhood (police station, etc.) 13. Presence of proper visibility in the path, especially at night with proper lighting
Visual beauty and form	14. Appropriateness of the surface and flooring of paths 15. the landscape of the Holy Shrine 16. Compatibility of buildings to historical houses in terms of height and facade architecture
Belonging sense	17. Mental role-playing and meaningfulness of places and sense of belonging 18. The feeling of loving the space and place of memorable events 19. Interaction between pilgrims and businessmen with neighbors
Warning, historical and Pilgrimage identification	20. Using Islamic symbols and signs in line with the identity of the neighborhood and the architecture of the facade of the building 21. Using historical places, local hangout places for local and social ceremonies, cultural centers, library 22. Behavior patterns and culture and pilgrimage

In the above table, the quality criteria with 7 main criteria and 22 sub-criteria have been composed these qualities have been provided in the form of questionnaire questions corresponding to the qualities and such that this questionnaire has been designed commonly and understandably for the residents, visitors and businessmen of the neighborhood and the responses are categorized according to the five-level Likert scale.

Research Methodology

Concerning the methodology of conducting research related to the studying and analysis analyzing the design qualities in Pilgrimage and historical walkways, various methods have been proposed. Concerning information gathering in the field of studying experiences, as well as concerning historical features, by gathering information from sources and references, scientific articles have been conducted. The methodology of this research is a survey in the first step which was used to gather information and evaluate the quality through a questionnaire in the neighborhood, and in the form of categorized questions based on the Likert scale and then the analysis and studying of each indicator of quality in designing walkways have been conducted. In the second step, information gathering and analyzing the relationship between the qualities of pedestrians and some features of respondents have been done. Also, the opinions of experts and professionals, and a preliminary test of the questionnaire were used to investigate the validity of the research and confirm the questions. Also, for the reliability of the research, the test-retest method was used. For this purpose, a smaller sample population was selected and the questionnaires were distributed among them. The obtained responses were similar to the original sample and had a high correlation coefficient, the results of which were analyzed and calculated using SPSS software.

Statistical Population, Sampling Method, and Volume of Sample:

In this research, Bagh Hassan Khan neighbor is investigated, and the sampling method is considered random. The presence of the questioner in the neighborhood of Bagh Hassan Khan for gathering information is such that he/ she attends there in the line of main paths which ends at the holy shrine and it is the crossing place of residents, businessmen, and the pilgrims of Imam Reza; this conducted sampling is calculated according to the population information in the following table, the volume of the sample of 277 persons and 277 questionnaires distributed in the neighborhood.

Table 3. Investigating the population statistics of the Hassan Khan neighborhood (reference: based on location database of Eidgah and Bagh Hassan Khan)

Area (hectare)	Number of doorplate		Population	Number of families	Population densities person per) hectare	Family dimension
	Residential	Non-residential				
24.5	327	242	988	339	40.32	2.9

Statistical Investigation of Respondents' Groups

In this research, attendees in the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood have been investigated and evaluated, and questionnaires were distributed to three categories of individuals, including;

residents, businessmen, and pilgrims. Also, the following table shows the frequency and percentage of each by gender.

Table 4. Analysis of respondents' groups

Gender	Type	Frequency	percentage
female	Resident	71	87.7
	Businessmen	3	3.7
	Pilgrims	7	8.6
	Total	81	100.0
male	Resident	59	30.1
	Businessmen	114	58.2
	Pilgrims	23	11.7
	Total	196	100.0

Introduction of Studying Area

Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood is surrounded by Navvab Safavi Street from the north, Shohadai Haj Street from the south, Hefdeh Shahrivar Street from the east, and Holy Shrine from the west. This neighborhood has old markets such as Azizollahov Bazar and Abbasgholi Khan Bazar, which is located in the north-south direction, and its northern end is close to Navvab Street and its southern end ends at the beginning of the Eidgah neighborhood. The characteristic of the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood is the existence of several historical houses such as Tavakkoli House, Amiri House, and Balkhasab. Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood has important historical paths that have an ancient background and has been a place for residents and pilgrims for many years. Azizullahov's bazar, which was constructed during the 1st Pahlavi era, is one of the important historical markets of this neighborhood, Hazrati Bazaar, and Abbasgholi Khan Bazaar are among the other historical markets of the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood. Due to the Razavi Holy Shrine and the location of the area in the first-class pilgrimage area, this area has been influenced by the Pilgrimage atmosphere of the Holy Shrine. The existence of many Pilgrimage places (Hosseiniyehs and mosques) in this neighborhood shows the Pilgrimage and historical context of Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood. Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood has 19 Hussainiyas (a place for which the martyrdom of Imam Hussein is mourned) and 5 mosques. The existence of these mosques and Hussainiyas was due to the needs of pilgrims.

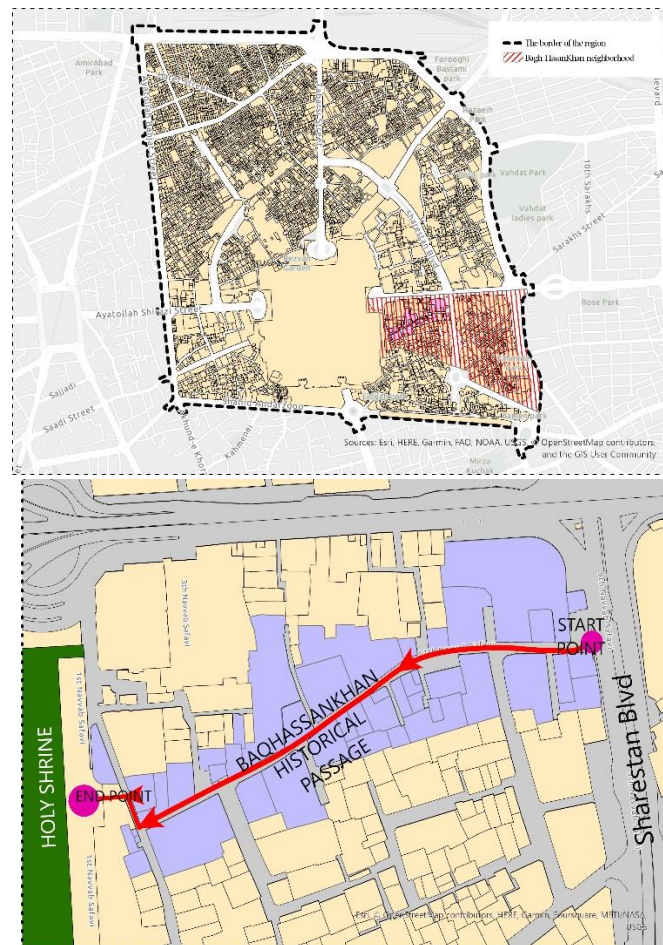


Figure 2: Location of Bagh Hasan Khan neighborhood

Findings and Discussion

Investigating the quality of criteria and indicators was conducted by an interview with pilgrims and neighbors of Imam Reza in 7 main criteria and 22 sub-criteria, which the findings are as the following:

The main criterion of “flexibility”, is based on its three sub-categories including open spaces for holding collective ceremonies, the diversity of economic and social activity in visiting path, and participating in ritual and Pilgrimage activities that their levels from the medium index are medium, medium and suitable, respectively. The other main criterion which is “cleanliness and vitality” includes three sub-criteria of green space, the beautification of the neighborhood, cleanliness, and hygiene of the environment their levels from the medium index are medium, medium, and unsuitable, respectively. The other main criterion is “readable and imaginable” which includes three sub-criteria of urban signs consistent with historical environment, active distinguished uses in space, informing signs and guiding in the path of pilgrim that their levels from the medium index are medium, medium, and suitable, respectively. The next quality is “safety and security” with four sub-criteria: emergency centers levels from the medium index are too unsuitable, but the size of sub-criteria including firefighting services, monitoring neighborhood factors, the presence of suitable vision in the path especially at night by proper lighting is in the medium level based on the medium level. “Visual beauty and form” are among

the main criteria with three sub-criteria as proper surface and flooring of paths, the landscape of the dome of the holy shrine, the proportionality of buildings to historical houses in terms of height and the architecture of facade that their levels from the medium index are medium, unsuitable and unsuitable, respectively. Another quality criterion that was mentioned in the questions is belonging sense this quality has the highest level of medium in comparison with the other criteria which include three sub-criteria of mental role-playing and meaningfulness of places, belonging sense, the sense of loving the place and space, memorable events, interactions between pilgrims and businessmen with neighbors that their levels from the medium index are suitable, suitable and medium, respectively.

“Warning and historical and Pilgrimage identification” are among the main criteria appropriate for this neighborhood which has three sub-criteria: using Islamic symbols and signs in line with the identity of the neighborhood, using historical places, local hangout places for local and social ceremonies, cultural center, libraries, behavioral patterns, and cultural and Pilgrimage traditions that their levels from the medium index are unsuitable, medium and unsuitable, respectively.

By analyzing the criteria based on the opinions of residents, pilgrims, and businessmen of the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood, we find out that only three criteria have suitable levels half of the qualities are medium level and the remainders are unsuitable and unsuitable, also, the quality of visual beauty and form has the lowest satisfaction level with the level of unsuitable and the quality of belonging sense has the highest satisfaction level placing in the appropriate level. The details of this analysis in different levels in every criterion and sub-criterion and their results have been mentioned in table 4. In the current research, after assessing the main criteria and qualities, through the questionnaire, questions based on the investigation of some variables including social interactions and problems are considered, which are two important factors in playing the role of the desired qualities, as well as in this regard, the relationship of each of them with the qualities of this research was conducted to identify the significance level of those statistical tests and the results are mentioned below.

Table 5: Review and survey related to the design qualities of the walkways of the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood

Main criteria	1-assessing criteria	Totally unsuitable	Unsuitable	medium	suitable	Totally suitable	Medium (50p)
Flexibility	Open spaces for holding ceremonies	43%	4%	16%	28%	9%	medium
	diversity of economic and social activity in visiting the path.	31%	14%	36%	17%	2%	medium
	participating in ritual and religious activities	15%	6%	28%	39%	12%	suitable
Cleanliness and vitality	green space	44%	2%	14%	28%	13%	medium
	beautification of neighborhood	47%	2%	13%	24%	13%	medium
	cleanliness and hygiene of the environment	49%	3%	11%	28%	10%	unsuitable
Readable and imaginable	urban signs consistent with the historical environment	46%	2%	12%	26%	13%	medium
	active distinguished uses in space	37%	2%	12%	34%	14%	medium
	informing signs and guiding in the path of the pilgrim	51%	9%	26%	12%	2%	Totally unsuitable
Safety and Security	emergency centers	54%	3%	9%	23%	11%	Totally unsuitable
	firefighting services	43%	3%	16%	29%	9%	medium
	monitoring factors in the neighborhood	25%	6%	40%	25%	4%	medium
	the presence of suitable vision in the path especially at night by proper lighting	44%	2%	14%	23%	17%	medium
Visual beauty and form	proper surface and flooring of paths	41%	2%	12%	27%	17%	medium
	the landscape of the dome of the holy shrine	43%	11%	31%	13%	2%	unsuitable
	the proportionality of buildings to historical houses in terms of height and the architecture of the facade	51%	7%	26%	14%	3%	Totally unsuitable
Belonging sense	mental role-playing and meaningfulness of places, belonging sense	11%	5%	11%	40%	34%	suitable
	the sense of loving the place and space, memorable events	4%	5%	13%	44%	34%	suitable
	interactions between pilgrims and businessmen with neighbors	22%	6%	35%	30%	7%	medium
Warning and religious and historical identification	using Islamic symbols and signs in line with the identity of the neighborhood	52%	6%	27%	15%	1%	Totally unsuitable
	using historical places, local hangout places for local and social ceremonies, cultural centers, libraries	43%	3%	16%	25%	13%	medium
	, behavioral patterns, and cultural and religious traditions	42%	9%	27%	18%	4%	unsuitable

The analysis of social interactions and problems in the walkway of the Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood shows that in the criterion of flexibility, the two behavioral factors (The tendency of individuals to be in the space due to the variety of attractive uses (such as restaurants, coffee houses, vendors, open spaces, etc.)), (Presence and communication with different strata of

ethnicities and nationalities in the neighborhood) have the most mentions by respondents. Also, in the criterion of safety and security, two factors (Harassment for women, especially at night, and Robbery, extortion, and assault) have the most mentions by respondents. In the criterion of belonging sense, two factors (Activities of Pilgrimage groups and charities in the neighborhood and Communication and intimacy with old neighbors and acquaintances) have been mentioned by more than 70 percent of respondents, this issue shows that the presence of old persons of region effects on the quality of belonging sense positively, also, in the criterion of warning and historical and Pilgrimage identification, one factor (Moving towards the holy shrine for collective praying) have been mentioned by more than 70 percent of respondents, besides that it is a behavioral and historical behavior that has been held in this place over years and it is included in the identity of this region.

Table 6: Survey of (residents, visitors, and businessmen) of Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood regarding interactions and social problems.

Main criteria	Type of variable	Variable (social)	Yes	No
Flexibility	Social interaction	The tendency of individuals to be in the space due to the variety of attractive uses (such as restaurants, coffee houses, vendors, open spaces, etc.)	52.7%	47.3%
Cleanliness and vitality		Presence and communication with different strata of ethnicities and nationalities in the neighborhood	88.8%	11.2%
Belonging sense		Activities of Pilgrimage groups and charities in the neighborhood	77.7%	22.3%
		Communication and intimacy with old neighbors and acquaintances	%53.4	46.6
Warning and spiritual identification		Moving towards the holy shrine for collective praying	55.8%	44.2%
Safety and Security	Social problem	Robbery, extortion, and assault	22.8%	77.2%
		Harassment for women, especially at night	20.9%	79.1%

In the following, the analysis of the relationship between different qualities in Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions and problems are conducted, these components have been mentioned the most by the respondents and the amounts of the effect of each of them in improving or decreasing the qualities of Pilgrimage walkways can be determined by

investigating their relationships. In this research, the H_0 hypothesis is defined as "there is no significant relationship between the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions and problems". In the other words, these two variables are independent of each other. The chi-square method is used to investigate the correlation and relationship between the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions or problems (according to the type of variable). According to this issue, by considering the error rate of 5% and the confidence coefficient of 95%, Sig should be 0.05 or lower than it so that there is a significant relationship and the H_0 hypothesis is rejected. The analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between the quality of "the diversity of social and economic activity in visiting path", which is influential in improving the flexibility", and the variable in the type of social interaction "the tendency of individuals to be in the space due to the variety of attractive uses (such as restaurants, coffee houses, vendors, open spaces, etc.)" and also, there is a significant relationship the related variables to the quality of cleanliness and vitality in the sub criterion of "cleaning and hygiene of the environment" and the variable in the type of social interaction "Presence and communication with different strata of ethnicities and nationalities in the neighborhood" and also, there is a significant relationship between qualities related to safety and security in the sub criterion of "the presence of monitoring factors" which has an effect on increasing security with the variable of the type of social problems "robbery, extortion and assault" and also the next criterion of the quality of safety and security that is "the presence of suitable vision in the path especially at night by proper lighting" and the variable of the type of social problems "Harassment for women, especially at night", which was determined by the conducted investigation in this research, and there is a reverse relationship and as the sub criteria of safety and security quality standards increases, the occurrence of social problems decreases. In the next statistical test between the related variables to the quality of sense of belonging means there are significant relationships between "mental role-playing and meaningfulness of places, belonging sense" and the variable of the type of social interaction "the activities of Pilgrimage and charity groups in the neighborhood" and also the other test for the same quality by the sub-criteria of "using historical places, local hangout places for local and social ceremonies, cultural center, libraries" with the variable of the type of social interactions of "Communication and intimacy with old neighbors and relatives". The quality of warning and Pilgrimage identification is one of the most important investigated qualities in the neighborhood and has a close relationship with behavioral patterns and social interactions and their relationship with this test which is one of the sub-criteria of this quality including "Behavior patterns and customs of culture and pilgrimage" and the most important variable of social interactions and behavioral patterns of this area including "Moving towards the holy shrine for collective praying" have been studied and the results of correlation test and significant relationship between variables are proven. Therefore, the obtained results of this test indicate that there is a significant relationship between the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions or problems, the H_0 hypothesis is rejected and the main hypothesis of the research is confirmed and proved.

Table 7. The way of correlation and relationships between the variables of the quality of Pilgrimage walkways and social interactions and problems

Variable (walkway quality)	variable (social interactions and problems)	Sig.	Df.	Chi-Square	Cramer's V	Phi
Diversity of economic and social activity in visiting path	People tending to be in a space due to the variety of attractive uses (such as restaurants, coffee houses, vendors, open spaces, etc.)	0.003	4	16.1	0.241	0.241
Environmental hygiene and cleanliness	The presence of different ethnicities and nationalities in the neighborhood	0.014	4	12.44	0.212	0.212
The existence of monitoring factors in the environment	Robbery, extortion, and assault	0.008	4	13.87	0.225	0.225
Good visibility in the path, especially at night through proper lighting	Harassment for women, especially at night	0.016	4	12.13	0.21	0.21
Mental playing role and meaningfulness of places and sense of belonging	Activities of Pilgrimage communities and charities in the neighborhood	0.009	4	13.46	0.222	0.222
Using historical places, local hangout places for local and social events, cultural centers, library	Communication and intimacy with old neighbors and relatives	0.001	4	165.86	0.775	0.775

Behavior patterns and customs of culture and pilgrimage	Moving towards the holy shrine for collective praying	0.001	4	25.98	0.307	0.307
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Generally, conducted investigations in assessing quality show that most qualities are in medium and unsuitable levels, so, the quality of the walkway is unsuitable from the users' point of view. According to the analysis, the relationship between influential criteria in improving the quality of Pilgrimage walkways in historical cities and social variables in the two categories of interactions and problems are mentioned by the respondents the most, and the results show that there is a correlation and significance relationship between the qualities and social variables. Improving environmental qualities in the walkway and urban space leads to increasing the activities and interactions of users of that space and previous research in Iran and western confirms this issue. Also, this research in studying and presenting theoretical foundations related to the quality and importance of walkways and their role related to Pilgrimage places and historical context around, which led to extracting these criteria and sub-criteria, and the effect of each in the environment of Pilgrimage walkways have been investigated in detail and the results obtained indicate that the quality of the urban environment is influenced by other qualities in such a way that the impact of each can be observed directly or vice versa on the other quality.

Conclusion

This research analyzed the quality of Pilgrimage walkways in the historical context around holy places and its case study was the Bagh Hassan Khan path (one of the most visited places in Mashhad, Iran), the response to the question of this research that "what criteria lead in improving the quality of Pilgrimage walkways around holy places" is mentioned in the theoretical foundation and conceptual model according to which the 7 main criteria of "flexibility", cleanliness and vitality", readable and imaginable", "safety and security", "visual beauty and form", "belonging sense", "warning and historical and Pilgrimage identification" should be considered. Regarding to the question of the level of the satisfaction of visiting paths users to holy shrine in Bagh Hassan Khan neighborhood in relation to the qualities of this research, the results of opinions show that more than half of the related criteria to the qualities of walkways are not formed in accordance with the needs and wishes of space's users and these unsuitable criteria should be improved and planned in order to improve the analyzed qualities, as it was investigated there is a significant level of relationship and correlation between social interactions and problems and the qualities of walkways and it means that social problems always lead in decreasing these qualities in the environment, on other side, humans' connections and interactions have a significant role in improving the environmental qualities and the amount of this role in Bagh Hassan Khan around the holy shrine where is a historical neighborhood of Mashhad; also it has many visitors which is included different groups of people is more distinguished. In this research, it is attempted to determine and investigate the most mentioned problems and interactions by residents, pilgrims, and even businessmen and

their relationships with the criteria of this research's qualities that the results show the importance and the role of this issue, in this regard, the suggestions and requirements can be provided. To improve the qualities related to flexibility and the criteria which are in the medium to the low levels, it can be conducted by the balanced distribution of uses in the important points of the neighborhood that create the context of economic and social activities according to the location and the level of influence of the function of pilgrimage, settlement, and residence; for example, by building local mixed uses in existing local spaces and social hangout places, the improvement of function and the quality of flexibility of the region can be helped. The issue of the quality of cleanliness and vitality was also investigated that shows a significant relationship between the presence of people in the space neighborhood, according to the extensive destroys in this neighborhood and the dusts resulting from it, and construction wastes and resulting from waste storages, these items leads in negative effects on the cleanliness of the environment, therefore, they can help to increase the presence and improve the quality of vitality by remove wastes from this area and paying attention to the cleanliness of the environment and actions like the lighting of the internal paths of the context and especially pilgrimage path. In the case of readable and imaginable, b designing an appropriate boundary aiming to reinforce existing signs in the context concerning increase urban readability and urban designing of paths and structural centers with the approach of urban restoration to improve the quality of the place and of course designing the centers of activity in accordance with pilgrimage in the different levels of functionality in walkways with high unification and easy guide of pilgrims by signs and symbols in the path of visiting the holy shrine can have a significant role in improving this quality. In the topic of safety which can help improve the safety of the environment by adjusting pedestrian ways used by people with every type of physical and movement ability and separating it from driving paths and off curse locating and improving the per capita of service and aiding uses and increasing the accessibility level to these center such as clinic, fire stations and ... In the quality of safety as it mentioned in the research, there is a reverse relationship between social problems and this relationship is proved in this research that needs more controlling and monitoring policies. Of course, we cannot ignore the effect of lighting and vision, especially at night which was investigated in places with low amounts of lighting and also in places with high amounts of lighting in this regard and the result of correlation with the quality of safety mentions this issue. The next quality in which suggestions are presented is based on improving the visual beauty and form; in recent years, by interfering in the physical structure of a neighborhood and destroying some historical buildings and also some mosques for constructing driving ways which were constructed to increase permeability in the context, many of other qualities have been affected by these changes and have the reduction of satisfaction, in recent years, in the area of constructions, these constructions have led in crinkling the view and landscape of the city and even effected on the landscape of the holy shrine which has no adjustment with the historical contexts and elements having a Pilgrimage identity. In this regard, some requirements based on composing height regulation should be conducted to organize the skyline, and strengthen the visual corridors and visual permeability of designing the boundaries located in the historical and valuable areas. Also, monitoring the landscape of new constructions in accordance with cultural and historical values is among the requirements.

Belonging sense is another quality that was emphasized in this research and we can help to the improvement of mental role-playing and the significance of place and belonging sense by investigating activities such as the activities of Pilgrimage and charity groups in the neighborhood and of course, strengthening spatial organization can create intimacy sense and increasing interactions and finally improving the quality of belonging sense by predicting designing activity centers in the flex point of pilgrimage walkways. Also, the quality of warning and Pilgrimage identification is one of the most important considered qualities in this research and which was conducted to investigate behavioral patterns and cultural and pilgrimage traditions and these issues in the investigations of this research with two behavioral patterns, i.e. moving towards the Holy Shrine to perform collecting praying and the level of communication and intimacy with the old neighbors and relatives, which the analysis of these behavioral patterns shows their correlation to the use of historical places, local hangouts places for local and social events is emphasized. , which can emphasize the importance of using Islamic symbols and signs in accordance with the identity of the neighborhood and architectural requirements to stabilize and improve this quality.

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