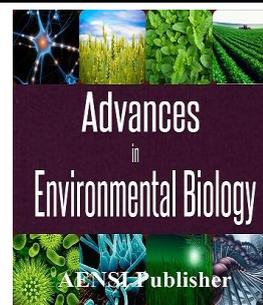




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Urban Furniture for the Disabled People in Designed Fabrics

Majid Dadashpour Mogadam

Islamic Azad University Marand Branch Geography and Urban planning Group

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ABSTRACT

City is a complicated set of various factors and elements which requires for strong and precise planning for harmonious development. Planning for design of urban furniture and spaces for the disabled people is one of the principles that authorities and managers in city deal with it. With regard to the statistics of world health organization, 10% of population around the world suffers from some form of physical disability. The disabled people face a variety of urban and architectural barriers in cities, thus adjustment of the city with needs of people with physical disability is required, for which urban design must be fulfilled based on special criteria and principles for the disabled people. Difficulties and obstacles existing in the access network and discontinuity of easy movement in trails have raised problems for some individuals. The elderly people, the mothers who carry their babies in strollers, the disabled people who move with wheelchairs, suffer from various barriers and inappropriateness of trails and flooring. Resolving these barriers in city has been regarded as the important action which guarantees increasing engagement by disabled people in social activities and urban spaces [1]. This study has aimed to examine urban furniture for disabled people and the elderly people concerning standards and principles of urbanization and housing ministry, and represent a logic and executable plan for the area under study comparing to global standards. The present study has been regarded as a field study using documentary studies, conducted at one of the designed fabrics, whereby it is hoped that the present study enables to achieve practical findings for experts and specialists.

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INTRODUCTION

Issue of designing urban furniture around the world is not a new topic, which has been regarded as an unnecessary issue in most of countries. Rapid growth of urbanization in recent decades has caused rise of numerous problems. In this regard, applying technical and engineering approaches and modern strategies of urban management can resolve existing problems in a large extent. Share of all segments of society as an aesthetic category for citizens' comfort and having a healthy life has not found its leading position in Iran's urban communities and urban management. Thereby, lacking urban furniture for the disabled people and the elderly people has doubled the problems and transformed the environment to an area which harms these groups of people. Hence, examination of urban furniture for the disabled people and the elderly people seems critical. In Iran, this issue has been considered as an unnecessary issue. Hence, most of cities around the world especially Iran do not enjoy a distinctive history at the area of design of urban equipment, whereby this issue has been less likely drawn into attention, for which there is not a long history. In most of cases, various types of urban furniture are mimicked from other communities, that climate, indigenous and cultural conditions have not been considered in design of urban furniture. This has caused rise of qualitative and quantitative problems in design and execution of urban furniture, so that this inattention has led to disorganization in the urban furniture, heterogeneity and lack of authenticity of urban elements with the environment especially lack of selection of proper equipment with cultural, climate and economic conditions at various regions of cities. However, by expansion of urbanization science and increasing specialization of this knowledge, a particular attention has been paid to the issue of urban furniture, which has been found with a special position in the urbanization, yet it requires further discussion.

Currently, most of concerned organizations and entities have not considered design, planning and localization of urban furniture as a definite strategy to build a suitable sustainable environment relevant with cultural conditions, causing visual turmoil and lack of efficiency of these elements at urban environment with lack of planning or defective and substandard planning. In this study, the issue under study lies on examination of existing status and recognition of existing problems associated to urban furniture for the disabled people and veterans at designed fabrics of city of Tabriz (Valiasr). This region which is a part of new fabric within city of Tabriz has been developed by high-income class. Nevertheless, as urban furniture for the disabled people requires design of special spaces and structures, thus it cannot consider it in a standard level within worn out fabrics, that's why worn out fabrics within neighborhoods might prohibit rise of urban furniture, thereby urban furniture for the disabled people cannot have efficiency at any fabric, concluding that the designed fabrics can be executed with lower cost due to simplicity and order; in the meantime the present study will aim to investigate the designed fabrics with the least problems.

With regard to the aforementioned issues, major aims of this study are characterized as follows:

-recognition of factors affecting disorganization of urban furniture for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people at city of Tabriz (Valiasr).

-identification of shortages and deficiencies at urban furniture for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people

-comparison of existing status of urban furniture for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people considering national and international standards

-representation of suggestions and approaches to reduce existing problems for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people at designed fabrics at city of Tabriz (Valiasr).

With regard to the aforementioned aims, hypotheses below are characterized:

The first hypothesis: there does not exist urban furniture for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people considering national and international standards.

The second hypothesis: poor collaboration between concerned organizations and departments in design and implementation of elements of urban furniture and lack of citizens' familiarity with importance and role of urban furniture in urban space for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people have caused rise of disorganization in urban equipment and arrangement. The third hypothesis: urban furniture can be executed for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people at designed fabrics.

A variety of studies at the area of urban furniture and the disabled individuals have been conducted around the world, that the most important ones are characterized as follows:

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Adaptive Environments Center, Boston, Boston center, 1990.

- Adaptive Environments Center and barrier-free environments. "Checklist of the law pertaining to the US disabled people to resolve existing barriers

- "American National Standards Institute," American National Standard for Buildings and Facilities: provide the capability for access and use of the individuals who have problems in physical perspectives.

- Beck I, Metz, for all buildings. Stockholm, Ministry of Physical Planning and Construction

The region under study in view of comprehensive Tabriz plan

The region under study as a part of district 2 of Tabriz municipality enjoys average density with few population and prevailing residential performance and designed fabric. Access network design has been in consistent with the predicted density in comprehensive plan, in which distribution of services has been as much as needed, representing the shortage due to services. About 24% of lands in neighborhood develop from Bayer surfaces, and garden surface has been reported 11.5% which has been destructed based on comprehensive plan under issuance 74. The façade of city of Tabriz (Valiasr) and social segmentation of residents have caused this area becomes an independent town in the city. Shopping center has been drawn into attention by people in the city. Educational services at this region up to high school grade have been in an acceptable level, yet deficiencies in educational services were felt due to starting operations of tall buildings. Health services have been 3 % per square meter and green space has been 95% per square meter which have been seen with deficiencies.

With regard to the existing information and content, construction of high-rise buildings will continue till long time, and this process and invasion of high-income class in this part of city with high-rise buildings will cause them problems at various areas in upcoming years. In this regard, adoption of suitable implications in sake of type and number of high-rise buildings together with creation of furniture and welfare facilities for the residents seems essential. In this regard, increasing capita of education, health, green space and access network is obvious. Hence, to achieve this attitude, adoption of favorable policies relevant with this region seems unavoidable, and ultimately aging has been seen essential for convenience in upcoming years and favorable life. Comparative study on common standards in urban furniture and spaces with existing status at *Valiasr Tabriz*

Hypotheses testing:

The first hypothesis: there does not exist urban furniture for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people considering national and international standards.

Table 1: Land use at Tabriz (Valiasr).

%	Capita	Square meter	Land use	
29/42	101/95	2412159	Residential	
0/01	0/02	365	Kindergarten	Educational
0/17	0/44	10455	Primary school	
0/10	0/27	6370	Secondary school	
0/11	0/29	6870	High school	
0/06	0/14	3395	Higher education center	
0/01	0/01	295	Etc.	
0/22	0/55	13125	Administrative	
0/01	0/03	800	Health	
0/37	0/95	22410	Park	Green space
0	0	0	Forest	
0/03	0/08	1850	Religious	
0	0	0	Cultural	
0/17	0/44	10420	Service and commercial	
0/05	0/13	3110	Tourism	
0/18	0/47	11200	Sports and entertainment	
0/01	0/03	650	Facilities and equipment	
0/74	1/93	45575	Industrial	
1/18	3/05	72240	Transport and communication	
-	-	651515	Good	Street network
-	-	53630	Average	
-	-	218984	Soil	
15/10	39/06	924129	Sum	
6/05	15/65	370300	Garden	Agricultural
5/5	14/22	336400	Farm	
0	0	0	Cemetery	
23/97	61/98	1466552	Bayer	
2/09	5/42	128180	Under construction	
1/00	2/59	61275	Military	
3/45	8/91	210775	Etc.	
100	258/61	6118900	Sum	

Source: comprehensive project

Table 2: List of urban equipment for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people at the area under study in sake of their use.

Explanations	Passage no 5(circle Mokhaberat to circle Parvin Etesami)	Passage no 4(circle Baranj to circle Shariati)	Street no 3(circle Mokhaberat to circle Baranj)	Passage no 2(street Karim khan to street Shahriar)	Passage no 1(street Foroghi to circle Homafar)	Position Name of urban equipment	Type of use of use
					7	Lighting in sidewalks	Service
Bus station	1	0	0	0	0	Benches and Chairs	
	0	0	0	0	0	Ticket booth	
	3	1	0	2	0	Press booth	
	4	3	7	5	2	Mailbox	
	17	19	27	23	16	Charity Fund	
	0	0	0	0	0	Shelters and canopies	
	12	8	10	13	5	Trash bin	
	29	19	24	31	27	Signs , symptoms , boards	
	5	2	3	7	3	Fire equipment	
	0	0	1	0	1	Waterers	
	5	7	11	9	4	Public telephone booth	
	3	4	3	5	3	Substation	

There is a huge gap between our cities and standard cities throughout the world in sake of urbanization principles, and this can be witnessed at all sectors in existing cities in the third world and developing countries, mentioned that this is clearly shown in urban furniture for disabled people and veterans, which requires for proficiency, thereby there has not been witnessed a standard at this area, that this is clearly obvious in the existing status. The area under study, due to having a new structure and being considered as a welfare region, often faces new plans in political, economic, administrative, security and commercial perspectives, where this requires lack of a suitable furniture design for the disabled people. In this regard, creation of suitable furniture for the disabled people requires numerous infrastructures, which the region under study enjoys this potential, yet due to the existing construction, still suitable furniture has not been witnessed for the typical people. With

regard to the existing evidences, there is no furniture for the disabled people and the elderly people, that flooring is rarely seen, gradually transforming to an unstandard passage after moving forwards followed by several meters. Unfortunately, high class and increasing the elderly population in this part of city in which the urban furniture has not been observed, is the reason for lack of observing standardization of the environment with the existing principles. Hence, with regard to lack of specialized furniture and conditions for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people, the first hypothesis is proven. In this regard, attention to this point is required that the main purpose is not to design the city for the disabled and veterans, but it can achieve this besides existing urban furniture with taking proficiency, so that no disturbance raises in the life process of typical individuals and their rights are observed.

The second hypothesis: poor collaboration between concerned organizations and departments in design and implementation of elements of urban furniture and lack of citizens' familiarity with importance and role of urban furniture in urban space for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people have caused rise of disorganization in urban equipment and arrangement. With regard to non-normative arrangement in most of urban equipment that the existing status is clearly witnessed, the second hypothesis is proven. Lack of proper lighting, biased and non-standard use of the flooring in front of houses and shops, lack of supervision by municipalities and organizations involved in this field prove lack of a plan by the concerned entities. Valiasr Tabriz is one of the best places around the city, that suffers from the heterogeneity in administration, construction, and arrangement of urban implementation, due to several reasons. In market square, massive traffic by taxi drivers to the downhill sidewalks, rock concretes, and the trash bins replete with trashes, all derive from lack of consideration by municipality and other entities at this area. On the other hand, lack of adequate lighting and advertisements intensify the problems at this place at night. Thus, regarding these explanations, this hypothesis is proven.

The third hypothesis: urban furniture can be executed for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people at designed fabrics. With regard to the needs of worn out fabrics to organization projects and a huge need of the disabled people's urban furniture to a special design and huge cost of this type of furniture, it cannot design the urban furniture in worn out fabrics because it cannot be economically effective for the municipalities. On the other hand, it can consider urban furniture in the designed fabrics due to certain size of streets or the specified project, whereby this hypothesis is also proven regarding the aforementioned factors.

Conclusion:

It can conclude that urban furniture has not found its real position for the disabled people, veterans and the elderly people throughout the country and cities, so that various problems including bureaucracy, administrative, political and economic problems in cities have caused the cities to be transformed to an insecure environment for the citizens including the disabled people.

Lack of proper embedment of urban elements and their arrangement, lack of taking enough consideration to the aesthetics of city, use of useless projects and so forth indicate that so far as all the entities do not represent a new and certain definitions for their duties, and a certain entity is not developed to handle these affairs, the cities will still stuck in these problems. We still do not observe general furniture and more specifically the furniture for the disabled person which is under specialized task in our cities. The furniture for the disabled people and veterans is a specialized but simple task, that can be achieved by an exact planning, job division and cohesion between urban managers. Urban furniture, due to being economically effective, must be improved and executed in most of designed fabrics, because it can be developed in this way. Finally, as attention to urban furniture for the disabled people and veterans and the elderly people is vital, a particular attention must be paid to urban furniture besides designing it. It is hoped that this study provides a useful area for such valuable research in future.

-in designing urban furniture and spaces for the disabled people and veterans and the elderly people, observing common standards, criteria and principles must be taken into account so as to install and localize the urban elements in consistent with users' taste and culture.

- in designing urban furniture and spaces for the disabled people and veterans and the elderly people, observing functional principles as one of the important factors of urban design is of a great importance.

- in designing urban furniture and spaces for the disabled people and veterans and the elderly people, attention to communication networks and natural and cultural factors must be taken into account.

-in designing urban furniture and spaces for the disabled people and veterans and the elderly people, communication networks must be designed regarding role and function of each of them.

-sidewalk is one of the access networks, for which the local conditions and characteristics for the extent of use by people and other social factors must be taken into account.

-in designing flooring, it must pay attention to this point that type of land use, climate, condition of sub -layers and maintenance cost have a direct effect on design of this element.

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