

Sociological Effects of Urban Green Space Expansion on Citizens

Mohsen Tabarraei
BaratAli Khakpour
Maryam Tabarraei

Abstract

Green spaces induce a social air into the urban environments and give them a natural look. They also render the rough and industrial spaces in the cities into relaxing and graceful ones. Green spaces establish a tight relation between the members of the society and natural surroundings thus making them more tolerable. This is essential for a society that is to remain sustainable.

Creation of better social interactions between the citizens in different urban zones, getting familiar with some of social indices (norms, values, micro cultures etc), socialization of individuals, and resolving of loneliness are amongst the most important sociological effects of the green spaces.

Based on the results obtained, 88% of the citizens (Mashhad, Iran) (average) believe that the green spaces, especially parks (on any levels) have a great effect on promotion of the social interactions and relations. From the viewpoint of those citizens who believe that the parks do not have any effects, the neighborhood parks with 18% and the zone parks with 6.6% show the most and the least amount of effect, respectively. Among the citizens who believe that the parks do have effects, the zone parks with 93% and the neighborhood parks with 81% show the most and the least amount of support, respectively.

The results of the χ test indicates the significance of the green space effect on the promotion of the social interactions and relations in all kinds of parks at a confidence level of 99% so that in all parks the values of the χ test in respect with the comparison of increase or decrease is significant at a confidence level of 99% and this shows that at a confidence level of 99%, in all parks, the expansion of green spaces causes a promotion of the social interactions and relations amongst the citizens.

Keywords: Sociological Effects, Green Space, Mashhad, zone parks