



# Quality of Life and Attitudes Towards Third Place in the Different Social Setting in Tabriz, Iran \*

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**ABSTRACT:** Quality of life is a noticeable concept in urban areas. Indeed, assessing the QOL in different social setting can be used as an environmental quality diagnosis of previous policy strategies while it is a required foundation for drafting future spatial and urban planning policies. With the growth of urban population, changes in the work and life pattern, the need for recreation and leisure has gained a further necessity for the urbanites and has turned to one of their major needs. Creating such centers as third places - away from work and life- foster communication and interaction among the people. Oldenburg defined the third place as a location outside of home or work that supports social interaction and emotional support, regardless of levels and social classes, ethnic and racial differences. This study has investigated the relationship between QOL in different social setting and people identification of third place, for spending leisure time. In this research, Tabriz, has been chosen as a sample of this study. Cochran's formula was used to determine sampling volume while questionnaires were distributed among citizens; after that the required data has been collected and analyzed via SPSS software. The research findings show that: In three districts, four dimensions of subjective and three dimensions of objective QOL are identified and the results show that the respondents' different levels of education, income, occupation status, etc. are important factors that influence people's attitudes towards quality of life. In the other way, social classes significantly affect the quality of leisure time; The amount of income and culture area are strong predicting factors which are affecting the choice of third places for spending leisure time.

**Keywords:** QOL, Leisure Time, Third Place, Social Class, Tabriz City.

## INTRODUCTION

Researchers from various disciplines have studied QOL since 1930s. These researchers tried to identify the components of QOL and compared various geographical areas such as cities, states, and nations using self-developed QOL indices (Wish, 1986). Researches indicate that the neighborhood infrastructure of a district has a major impact on residents' quality of life (Carley et al., 2001; Buonfino & Hilder, 2006; Goodchild, 2008; Jeffres et al., 2009; Hickman, 2013). The quality of life in urban areas is considered comfortable with easy-access to basic needs in an urban environment (Eiser, 2004). It is clear that disparities in the quality of life cause third

places with different features and qualities to get formed. It now makes sense that different levels of social classes are more apt to form distinct number and types of third places.

Changes in the experience and use of time among the most people are the prevalent trend in today's life. One is the continuous and significant reduction of working hours and the increase of leisure time (Haller et al., 2013). Researches indicate that the neighborhood infrastructure of a district has a major impact on residents' quality of life (Carley et al., 2001; Buonfino and Hilder 2006; Goodchild 2008; Jeffres et al., 2009; Hickman 2013). The

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quality of life in urban areas is considered as comfortable life and access to basic needs in an urban environment (Eiser, 2004). Leisure is a series of tasks that after the release of the family and social requirements of the job, the people with full satisfaction spend it to relax, for fun, to develop a non-profit training or voluntary social contributions (Haywood et al., 1999, p. 384). Also in the present era, with the increased speed of lifestyle through scientific-technological developments in the context of communication and transportation (Sennett, 1998; Poser 2011), people have more free time to spend as leisure time.

Urban centers around the world are a type of civic places that allow people to socialize and interact with each other in the public. As a matter of fact, urban spaces are places belonging to the public, are not limited to corporal and physical aspects, and gain significance in the presence of man and his activities. It's clear that these spaces take place with interactive dialogue among citizens in the form of face to face meeting and holding presentation, social and cultural ceremony and etc. Surveying the importance of such places in the cities of Iran - which are remarkably different from those of Western countries in terms of social factors and current of life - depends on several factors of which the social classes is the most important. With a brief glance at different areas of the city, it can be said that extreme inequalities and disparities between social classes (economic, social and cultural inequalities) in different districts have a significant influence on the quality of life and the places defined for the people to spend their leisure times in.

This paper is especially concerned with the exploration of the role of QOL of different social classes in the quality of the place they select, such as shops, cafes, community centers, etc., which have been described as being "third places" as compared to "home" (first) and "workplace" (second).

These places are important and valued venues for interaction. There are two reasons for this research. First, a strong case can be made for arguing that, third places play an important role in facilitating social interactions between different social classes. Second, the neighborhood recreation infrastructure of some neighborhoods (especially in the marginalized area) has been eroded in the recent years, a trend which is likely to continue in the future with the decline in public spending and economic downturn (Hickman, 2013; Hastings et al., 2012; Flint, 2012). The article draws on data gleaned through questionnaires. Our empirical analyses are based on survey data from the SPSS software.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Quality of Life*

Quality of life (QOL) which relates to people's awareness towards their life conditions, recently has gained much attention from urban researchers (Ibrahim & Chung, 2003; Nooraie & Tabibian, 2012; Eby et al., 2012; Rezvani et al., 2013). Certainly, QOL is a broad concept which describes "How well communities support resident well-being and life satisfaction" (Mulvey, 2002, p. 656). According to Campbell, Converse and Rodgers (1976), QOL is the individuals perceived level of satisfaction with life in general, which is related to the level of satisfaction in various life domains, such as work, family, residential environment, and so on.

Two basic approaches have been applied by researchers to examine QOL, particularly in the context of people living in cities and metropolitan areas:

a) The first was involved monitoring QOL/QOUL through a set of indicators— usually over time—derived from aggregated spatial data using official sources, such as the census, that are said to be related to perceived QOL (for example, level of household income, crime rates, pollution levels, housing costs, and so on).

b) The second was involved modeling relationships between characteristics of the urban environment and measures of peoples' subjective assessments of QOL domains, including their satisfaction with specific phenomena and life as a whole. This approach typically involved data collected through survey research methods and analysis using techniques such as regression analysis or structural equation models (Marans & Stimson, 2011).

Many people often associate economic growth and development as a measurement of quality of life. However, this is not true, as the measurement of quality of life comprises not just one factor or aspect, but a myriad of them (Ibrahim & Chung, 2003). For many years, scholars in both social sciences and environmental design professions have argued that "quality" of any entity has a subjective dimension that is perceptual as well as an objective reality (Marans and Stimson, 2011). The objective approach reflects a tangible condition of environment (Das, 2008). While Subjective QOL is referred to individual opinion, context plays an important role in their opinion toward their living environment (Marans, 2003). In fact, people in different contexts by having different conditions, have a different concern about different aspects of life (Table 1).



**Table 1. Models**

Year	Researcher(s)	Research Title	Aim(s)	Model
1975	Marans and Rodgers	Towards an understanding of community satisfaction	<p>This model rests on the following four principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The experiences of people are derived from their interactions with the surrounding environment.</li> <li>The subjective experiences of people are different from the objective environment.</li> <li>People respond to their experiences with the environment.</li> <li>The level of satisfaction in various life domains contributes to the overall QOL experience.</li> </ul>	<p>Model showing the relationships between domain residential satisfaction and quality of life.</p>
1976	Campbell, Converse and Rodgers	The quality of American life: Perceptions, evaluations and satisfactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The model specified a series of linkages between various objective attributes of each life domain and satisfaction measures of those domains, which in turn could be influenced by a range of individual characteristics and individual standards of comparison.</li> <li>This model suggested that satisfaction with living could be viewed at multiple levels of analysis.</li> </ul>	<p>Model showing relationships between domain satisfaction and life satisfaction.</p>
1991	Marans and Mohai	Leisure resources, recreation activity, and the quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A model suggests how health may be linked to a number of objective conditions associated with a set of leisure resources including environmental quality.</li> <li>The model shows that the environmental and urban amenities are related to community quality and individual activities, satisfactions, and physical health.</li> </ul>	<p>A model linking recreation resources and activities to individual well-being, health and community quality.</p>
2003	Marans	Understanding environmental quality through quality of life studies: the 2001 DAS and its use of subjective and objective indicators		<p>Model showing relationships between objective condition, subjective responses and neighborhood satisfaction.</p>



### **Leisure Time**

Leisure has been defined as a quality of experience or as free time (Kelly, 1996). The period between the 16th Century and the beginning of the 19th Century provided conditions which helped sports and leisure activities to emerge, but more importantly, promoted a framework that came to define and organize their practice (Turcot, 2016). Kelly argues that leisure “is processual with freedom as well as structure” (Kelly, 1983, p. 167).

Leisure time is most closely linked to people’s spiritual and cultural life and it has also a very close relationship with the spiritual and cultural life of the society because one can do what he likes for leisure and so can recover and expresses the final character of himself (Behjati Ardakani & Ghanbarpoor, 2015). The experience of a leisure setting as a third place does not automatically imply that this setting will facilitate a third place experience for all who come (Yuen & Johnson, 2016). Certain spaces may be inclusive toward a specific population, while at the same time be exclusive to another population, leisure spaces are no exception (Mulcahy et al., 2010; Trussell et al., 2011; Yuen & Johnson, 2016).

It is important to acknowledge that leisure time has been explored in a range of different (and sometimes overlapping) contexts including: Stress and boredom within the leisure time (Barnett, 2005; Haller et al., 2013; Qian et al., 2014), Social interactions in leisure time (Thomas et al., 2013; Yuen & Johnson, 2016); Individual and communal benefits (Cheang, 2002; Hawkins & Ryan, 2013); Leisure time and social class (Dawson, 2009; J. Walker, 2016). Also, leisure settings, such as clubs, cafe’s, and support groups involving workshops and social activities, have been examined as third places in the leisure literature (Glover & Parry, 2009; Mair, 2009;

Glover et al., 2012; Johnson & Glover, 2013).

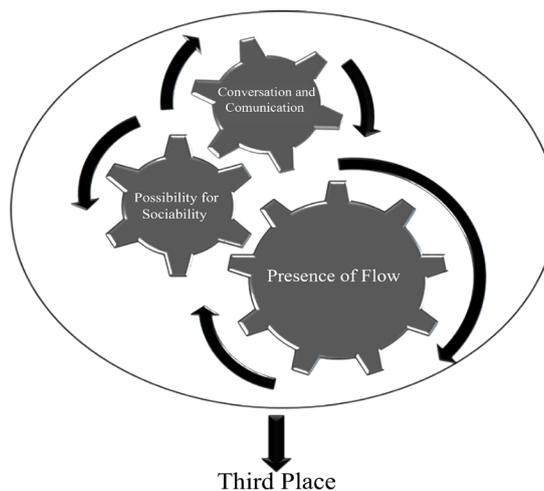
Based on studies, due to the inadequacy and poor quality of leisure spaces, it is considered to be essential to build leisure spaces with high quality in the cities of Iran as the container for selective, social activities of leisure. In doing so, the local cultural features need to be given a high consideration. As a result, local residents will choose these facilities more frequently for their leisure activities. Therefore, the most basic step in designing spaces with a third-place approach is to develop an awareness of the content, namely the people, their recreational activities and behaviors, and the conceptual meanings in the minds of them.

### **Third Places**

Oldenburg (1999) coined the term third places to denote “public places that host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work” (Rosenbaum, 2006). Third places are usually locally owned, independent, small-scale establishments that are operated by people who seem to know everyone in the neighborhood. In addition, third places are usually patronized by a group of regular customers who often transform them into their second homes (Oldenburg, 1990). Third places are as important as either of those defining who we are and what we do. We allow our third places to define us today.

Third places or urban public places are very suitable places for the citizens’ participation. Thus, through interaction with each other in public places, the citizens develop their mental abilities and creativities and display them to the public

Fig. 1 represents those essential qualities integral to a third place, as defined by Oldenburg and Brissett (1982).



**Fig. 1. Conceptual Model-third Place (Based on Oldenburg and Brissett (1982))**



For an individual, the third places offer stress relief from the everyday demands of both home and work. It provides the feeling of inclusiveness and belonging associated with participating in a group's social activities (Jeffres et al., 2009). Leisure researchers have recently taken interest in examining claims that a third place is offers individuals things (i.e. perspective, novelty) that home and work life simply cannot and found that third places foster social connections and novel entertainment (Glover & Parry, 2009; Mair, 2009; Jeffres et al., 2009; Swapan, 2013; Aldosemani et al., 2015; Alidoust et al., 2015).

There is a strong need to develop urban public spaces in contemporary cities of Iran in accordance with their local culture. Due to the fact that definition of a third place differs from one culture to another, in building such places, a cultural feature of Iran should be taken into consideration. These places are for people to gather around one another and form friendly relationships. People give meaning to such places and, in return, such places give people an opportunity to express their attitudes and exchange ideas with one another (Oldenburg, 1999, p. 11). Therefore, these places are more of an experience

rather than being a mere product (Tumanan & Lansangan, 2012). The perceived lack of any third place in a person's life may result in dissatisfaction "as a consequence of the increasing narrowness of people's spheres of involvement with others" (Oldenburg & Brissett, 1982).

Many researchers, including Oldenburg himself, have expressed concerns that traditional third places like libraries (Lawson, 2004; Fialkoff, 2010; Johnson, 2010), bookstores (Laing & Royle, 2013), and coffee shops (Simon, 2009; Saey & Fross, 2015), face difficulties in fostering authentic third place environments and may be things of the past. Crick (2011) argued there are different types of third places that we must now consider. The studies support claims that third places can still thrive in contemporary society (Rosenbaum, 2006; Glover & Parry, 2009; Mair, 2009; Metta & Bossen, 2010; Slater & Koo, 2010; Hawkins & Ryan, 2013; Peters, M. 2016; Yuen & Johnson, 2016). For example, some have argued virtual places (Ducheneaut et al., 2007; Haythornthwaite & Kendall 2010; Memorovic et al., 2014; Aldosemani et al., 2015) or spectacular, corporate establishments (Crick, 2011) can replace Oldenburg's original idea of great gathering places.

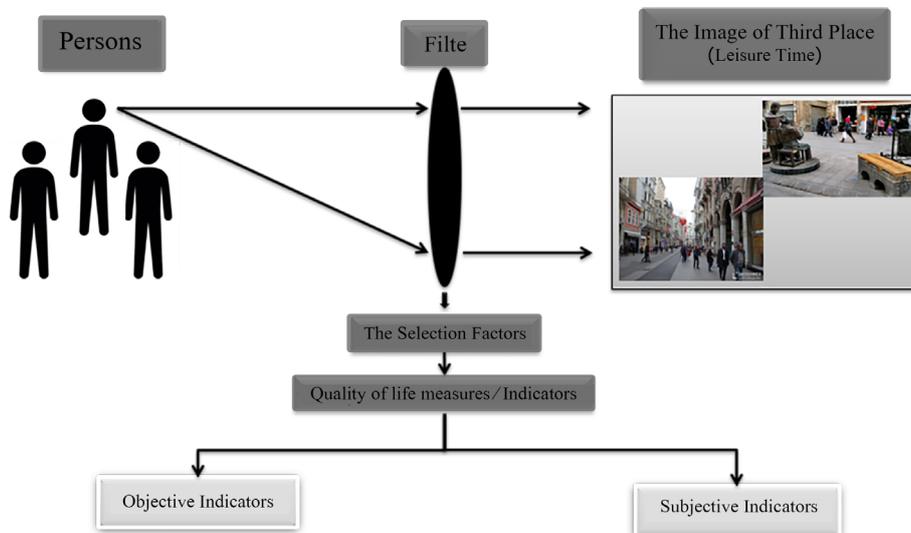


Fig. 2. Conceptual Framework

## METHODOLOGY

This study used descriptive-analytical method. The data were collected through extensive library study and referred to main accessible sources. However, a part of data was collected through survey method and questionnaire.

## Study Areas

This study was conducted in Tabriz, Iran, a city of almost 1,500,000 inhabitants and the capital of its region (East Azerbaijan province). Tabriz city is one of the famous historic cities in Iran and in the World such that it was recognized as the Tourism capital of the Islamic



world in 2018. Like other populated cities in developing world, Tabriz has experienced the phenomenon of rapid urban growth leading to the formation of informal and slum settlements in peripheral zones of the city (Rahimi,

2016). Generally, Tabriz city is divided into three clusters in terms of their population density, infrastructure, built-form patterns and accessibility, including the availability of public transport and ... (Fig. 2).

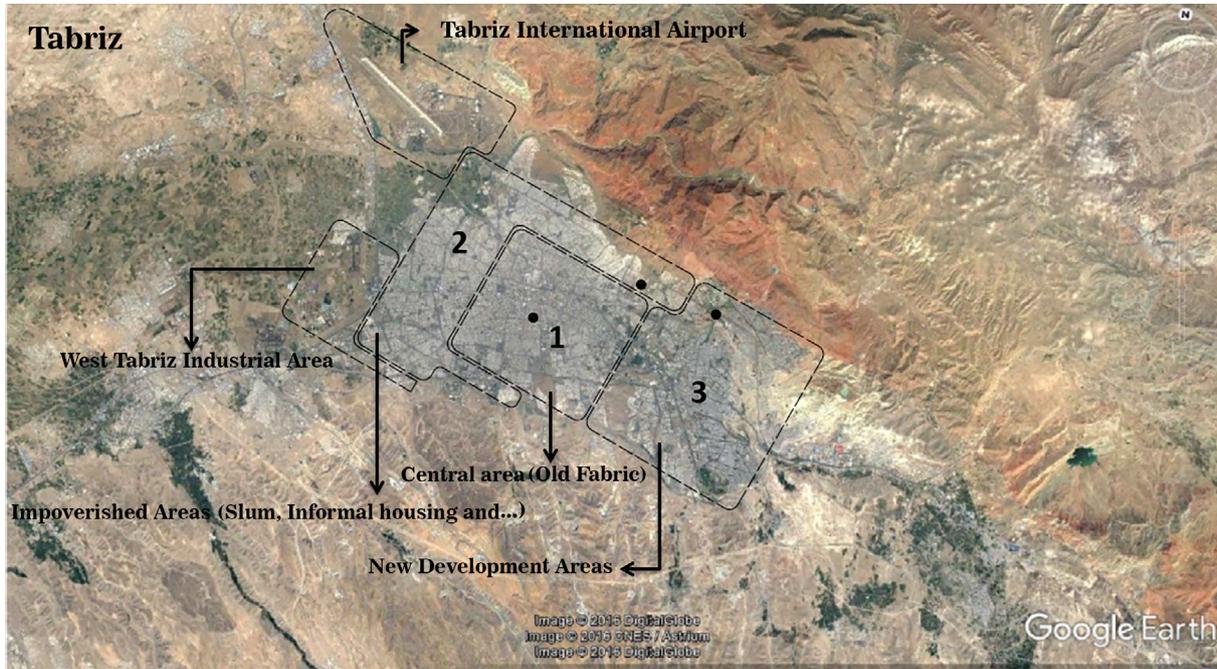


Fig. 3. Map of the Study Area (Google Earth 2016)

A field study was conducted in three neighborhoods (Magsudiyeh District, Molla Zeynal District, Roshdiyeh District) in the different zone of the Tabriz city (Fig. 2). All of them are in the different deciles and were selected to represent broad differences in the extent of diversity, connectivity and residential mobility according to relevant social indicators. Also, these neighborhoods differed in many dimensions, including a year of construction, architecture and demographic composition.

Magh'sudiyeh is the oldest area of the three neighborhoods studied. This neighborhood is among the old and invaluable neighborhoods in the historical texture of the city. The current built-up area goes back to the Ilkhanate era, having a grid structure with regular blocks, buildings of one or two floors and a small garden in the center. The distinguishing feature of this area is the fact that several historical buildings (Qajar and Pahlavi) are located in this area which are among the historical tourist attractions of Tabriz. It is also very homogeneous and coherent.

Molla Zeynal is a suburban settlement of many inhabitants. Most of the people residing in this district

have come from other towns and villages of the province to find a job. This zone is the most considerable slum area in the city and is characterized by socio-economic, environmental and even political problems. Due to its history and the unique topographic condition, this zone is completely different with other slum zones of Iran and even Tabriz. One of the major problems of this area is vulnerable informal buildings that are mostly built without obtaining construction permits. Structural flaws in such buildings indicate that due to the negligence of the National Construction Regulations in the design and implementation and the lack of quality control for construction materials used in these buildings, on the part of their manufacturers, these buildings are of technical flaws.

Roshdiyeh is a new residential and business area developed along the Eynali Mountain Chain. Rich economic activity opportunity and high quality of building have attracted people from other parts of the city to this district. The surrounding parts of the area are mostly dedicated to local commerce. Throughout the neighborhood, there are large parks, multifunctional



shopping centers and many cultural and sports facilities.

**The Procedure**

The questionnaire was designed in reference to concepts from the literature and was divided into three main sections. Section one includes questions regarding objective and subjective dimensions of the QOL. The second section asked for people’s opinions on leisure and the effect of different social setting on it. Another section contained socio-demographic (i.e., age, gender, income, educational level) and housing variables (e.g., categorical variables for living in cooperative housing, dwelling type, housing tenure, and a continuous variable for a length of residency). Provided questions (In section 1) have been

measured in 5-point Likert scale, where 1 shows total satisfaction and 5 shows total dissatisfaction.

To avoid ambiguity in questions, to increase the number of collected questionnaires and to extract main issues, structured interviews by application of questionnaires were conducted. First, pre-tests were done to calculate Cronbach’s Alpha as a tool to assess the reliability of applied questions, with 45 residents. Cronbach’s Alpha value ranges from 0 to 1. Results of Cronbach’s Alpha for this study in three districts are provided in table 5. Based on to Nunnally (1978), values of 0.7 and over are considered as acceptable reliability coefficients. So the test and applied questions could be considered as reliable.

**Table 2. Reliability Statistics**

	<b>Magsudiyeh</b>	<b>Molla Zeynal</b>	<b>Roshdiyeh</b>
<b>Cronbach’s Alpha Based on Standardized Items</b>	0.821	0.834	0.854

All of the participants were residents of the neighborhoods. They were approached in the street and agreed to respond to the questionnaire. The collected samples were not representative of the city’s population, but care was taken to ensure that they represented a wide spectrum of age and levels of education whenever possible. The criterion for sample selection was ease of access and whether the participant agreed to give an interview.

Multi-stage sampling technique for sampling has been applied. In the first stage, Tabriz was divided into three areas based on social and economic characteristics. Then, three different neighborhoods were selected by stratified random sampling method. Then by application of Cochran formula<sup>1</sup> method, with a significance level of 95% and an error margin of 5%, the required sample size has been determined and by use of systematic sampling method, questionnaires have been distributed among the residents of the neighborhood.

After performing data entry and screening in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), we conducted analyses using descriptive and inferential statistic methods and factor analysis. In the description of the data, descriptive statistic tables (frequency, percentage, mean) relating to each variable of the study is provided. In accordance with the objectives of the study, to analyze the data, Independent Sample T-Test and ANOVA test are carried out.

**Participants**

Residents living in three specified regions answered the questionnaire. In this research, we informed people that the study was solely for academic purposes, that their participation was voluntary, and that they could withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. The sample consisted of 52% woman and most respondents (30.6%) are between 18-25 years old (Table 3).

**Table 3. Frequency Distribution of the Demographic Characteristics of the Sample**

	<b>Magsudiyeh</b>	<b>Molla Zeynal</b>	<b>Roshdiyeh</b>
<b>Gender (Female %)</b>	48.8%	47.2%	60%
<b>Age (%)</b>			
<b>18-25</b>	34.4%	23.2%	34.2%
<b>25-35</b>	20.8%	28.8%	19.2%
<b>35-45</b>	8.8%	32.8%	20.0%
<b>45-55</b>	9.6%	11.2%	16.6%



<b>More than 55</b>	26.4%	4.0%	10.0%
<b>Education (%)</b>			
<b>No school</b>	4.0%	13.6%	0%
<b>Primary school</b>	1.6%	44.0%	8.3%
<b>High school</b>	17.6%	28.8%	31.7%
<b>University</b>	76.8%	13.6%	60.0%

**RESULTS**

**Factor Analysis (Objective and Subjective Indicators)**

Factor analysis is a multivariate analytical technique which is applied to extract a subset of uncorrelated variables called factors that explain the variance observed in the original dataset (Everitt and Dun, 1991). Factor analysis summarizes data into a few dimensions by condensing a large number of variables into a smaller set of latent variables or factors.

In order to see suitability of the selected domains for applied indicators in questionnaires, Bartlett’s sphericity test and the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin (KMO) measurement, used for sampling adequacy, were tested. The Bartlett’s sphericity test and the KMO index enable to detect if we can or cannot summarize the information provided by the initial variables in a few numbers of factors. But they do not give an indication about the appropriate number of

factors.

Following Ibrahim and Chang (2003), Das (2008), Tesfazghi et al. (2009) and Rezvani et al. (2013) the subjective and objective QoL indicators in three districts are measured.

As it was mentioned before, the QoL is a multi-dimensional concept. To find out the underlying dimension of subjective and objective Quality of Life indicator, in order to analyze the QOL in different areas, factor analysis has been applied using 23 subjective and 19 objective attributes that were obtained from the survey.

The KMO value and the Bartlett’s test for each study are calculated, which suggests that the data is suitable for factor analysis. The number of factors extracted by the eigenvalue criterion (greater than one) and scree Plot for the objective and subjective indicator are respectively 3 and 4.

The following tables show the special value and the percentage of variance explained by each factor in the three neighborhoods (Tables 4, 5 & 6).

**Table 4. Total Variance Explained (Magsudiyeh District)**

Subjective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Objective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
		Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %			Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
	1	6.812	29.617	29.617		1	6.692	30.420	30.420
2	2.824	12.280	41.896	2	3.167	14.397	44.817		
3	1.261	5.483	63.134	3	2.341	10.643	55.460		
4	1.087	4.725	73.055						

**Table 5. Total Variance Explained (Molla Zeynal District)**

Subjective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Objective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
		Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %			Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
	1	6.049	39.193	39.193		1	7.319	33.270	33.270
2	2.128	12.254	51.447	2	4.092	18.601	51.871		
3	2.068	9.980	61.427	3	2.013	9.152	61.022		
4	1.352	5.879	67.306						



**Table 6. Total Variance Explained (Roshdiyeh District)**

Subjective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Objective	Component	Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
		Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %			Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
	1	7.467	32.467	32.467		1	7.029	31.949	31.949
	2	2.756	11.982	44.449		2	3.572	16.238	48.186
	3	2.462	10.704	55.153		3	1.933	11.787	59.973
	4	1.358	5.904	61.057					

**Correlation and Descriptive Analysis**

The Indicator Correlation Matrix is one of the most achievements of this study in that highlighting the correlation based on different variables such as gender, marital status, and employment status of participants can lead to a suitable understanding of the distribution of variables and differences among the variable. Independent

T-Test and One-Way ANOVA were employed to reach a suitable understanding of these differences.

As table 7 shows, a large portion of the residents of Molla Zeynal District (56%) choose intra-regional places for spending their leisure times. While, on the other hand, in Roshdiyeh District (48.3%) and in Magsudiyeh (44.8%), people mostly prefer both intra and extra-regional places (Table 7).

**Table 7. Total Variance Explained**

		Percent (%)		
		Magsudiyeh	Molla Zeynal	Roshdiyeh
Valid	Intra-regional	43.2	56.0	35.8
	Extra-regional	12.0	20.8	15.8
	Both of them	44.8	23.2	48.3
	Total	100%	100%	100%

One of the goals of the present study is to identify the places and activities that people prefer for spending leisure time and its relationship with QOL. According to the survey carried out, it can be said that in all these three areas that are studied, people prefer recreational activities for their leisure times. Park spaces are a top priority for most people as third places (a space for dialogue, relaxation and so on). It should be noted that the spatial features and physical qualities (such as facilities provided) in parks vary in different regions.

Also, in Roshdiyeh and Magh'sudiyeh districts, people choose public places such as coffee shops, pedestrian ways and restaurants as third places.

According to the field observations, it can be said that although in Molla Zeynal neighborhood, third places are only limited to mosques, local parks, and in some cases to local coffee houses, since the residents of these areas are greatly interested in public discussions, anywhere in the neighborhood (such as crossings, in front of shops such as a grocery store, the doorways of houses etc.) can function as a third place for them. While this doesn't apply in the case of the other two neighborhoods under observation.

Moreover, the result shows that people in the three districts under investigation prioritize their reasons for choosing a particular place differently.

Based on the results obtained, in Roshdiyeh neighborhood, the criterion of "people visiting that place", in Magh'sudiyeh neighborhood, the criterion of "facilities and services provided in that place", and in Molla Zeynal neighborhood, the criterion of "the cost of going to that place" are more considered by the people that select a particular type of place for spending their leisure times.

Furthermore, the results of analysis of the correlation between the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) and independent variables (gender, age, occupation, etc.), using Pearson correlation coefficient, indicate that: In Magh'soodiyeh and Roshdiyeh Districts, no correlation is observed between the independent variable and the dependent variables (the first priority of the majority of people in the area); In Molla Zeynal District, a correlation is observed between the independent variables (age and income) with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) (Table 8).



**Table 8. Correlation**

	Gender	Age	Income	Employment
<b>Feeling a Sense of Community</b>		*_		
<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	- 0.44	0.202	*0.167	-0.024
<b>Sig. (2-tailed)</b>	0.624	0.024	0.050	0.789

\* Correlation is Significant at the 0.05 Level (2-tailed)

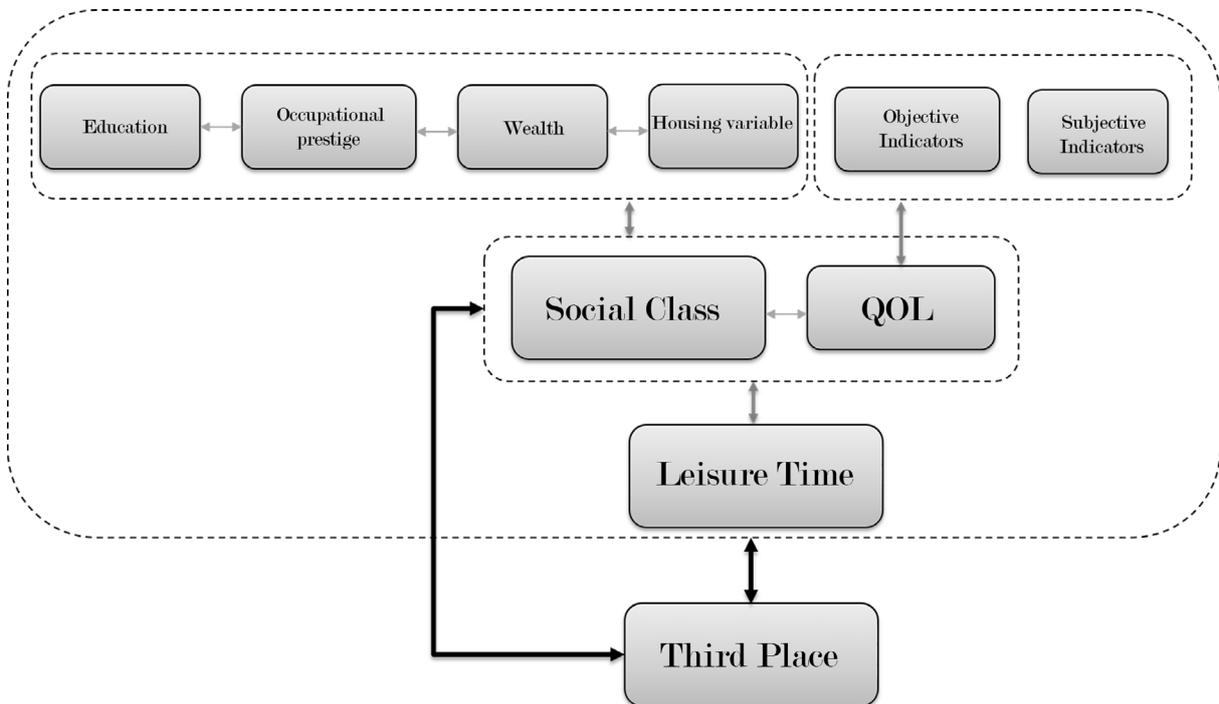
As the results show, residents in the three districts under investigation consider different structural and architectural criteria while choosing a place for spending their leisure times. Based on the results obtained, in the neighborhoods of Roshdiyeh and Maghsudiyeh, the criterion of “creating a sense of belonging and peace” and in the Molla Zeynal neighborhood, the criterion of “existence of spaces tailored to different ages” are more considered by the residents while choosing a particular type of place for spending their leisure times.

**CONCLUSION**

In today’s cities, urban life and social life, in various spheres, don’t have homogeneous and uniform

characteristics. Economic and social indicators are among the factors that distinguish urban and social classes and create them. Each class level has specific dimensions and characteristics peculiar to it; these characteristics determine the ways that third places are chosen and their qualities, and they also affect social life and environmental qualities.

Most researchers from various disciplines have studies Third Place; most have focused on quality of Third place, psychological benefits of it, spiritual effect: thereby neglecting the effect of QOL on features and quality of the selected place. This study was aimed to investigate and analyze the mechanism of QOL in different social setting and its relationship with the selection of places for spending leisure time (Third place).



**Fig. 4. Path Relationship Model**  
(Based on Results)



For this purpose, first the literature of QOL, Third place and social class were reviewed and so based on the research review questionnaire was prepared. Collected data by questionnaire was analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistic methods and factor analysis.

To investigate the suitability of extracted factor and their indicators, KMO statistics and Bartlett test have been applied. The obtained results reflect the suitability of selected factors and their indicators.

According to field observation and results gained from the analysis of open questions, in all three case studies, unemployment (especially in Molla Zeynal district) is the main problem of residents in this city, which causes many problems in the society.

In three districts, 4 dimensions of subjective and 3 dimensions of objective QOL are identified. Also, the results show that the respondents' different levels of education, income, occupation status, etc. are important factors that influence people's attitudes towards quality of life.

Also, according to the findings, from among the three case studies, a culture of the residents, their varied viewpoints, and also, the amount of income (an important factor of QOL) they earn are the most pivotal factors in the selection of different third places.

The results of Pearson correlation test confirm the significant, positive correlation between the third place (intra-regional or extra-regional) and variable income in Molla Zeynal district. It means that due to financial debility, the majority of the residents in this area prefer intra-regional places (Sig (2-tailed)= 0.000); most of these intra-regional places (such as parks) are of low quality in terms of usability and environmental qualities. Although based on the results obtained, residents of the other two areas under investigation (Roshdiyeh and Maghsodiyeh Districts) also prefer both intra and extra-regional spaces for spending their leisure time; however, in people's opinion, the quality of the public spaces (Third places) in these areas is desirable, so people willingly choose these spaces. Whereas, Molla Zeynal area residents, due to low income, have to spend their leisure time in intra-regional areas reluctantly.

In doing so, the following suggestions are offered:

- Orienting development plans towards economic development in order to overcome the economic and employment problems in the region
- Controlling management plans in order to create more employment opportunities in the region
- Developing and organizing recreational facilities in

the city (especially in the marginalized area)

- Creating places of leisure opportunities for young people and families
- Providing facilities in accordance with the culture of each area of the city in order to improve the quality of life
- Defining third places (as well as the optimization of existing spaces), tailored to each region, which can reduce social tensions, promote positive social features, and thus improve quality of social life in the city area.

## ENDNOTE

$$1. n = \frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} / \left( 1 + \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} - 1 \right) \right)$$



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