

Analysis of Urban Spaces Based on the Principle of Balance in Islamic Thought Considering the Role of Land Use in Responding to Human Needs; Case Study: The City of Mashhad

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ABSTRACT

The principle of Balance is one of the fundamental principles in an Islamic city. In Islamic thought regarding the human needs in the urban environment, the principle of balance considers appropriate and balanced responses to the human needs in different realms of human life. The previous studies indicate that the concept of balance was less addressed on the scale of urban spaces and their realization through addressing the landscape and considering different realms of human life. The current study aimed to realize how land use in urban spaces can meet the quality of balance in responding to the needs of the different realms of human life. After a literature review, among material needs (physiological needs), mental needs, and spiritual needs of the realm of human, overall, 6 criteria and 13 sub-criteria were selected to evaluate the concept of balance. Four different urban spaces from different periods of the physical development in Mashhad city were selected as case studies. The research method was a field study and statistical analysis. To this end, 240 questionnaires were distributed in the selected urban spaces. The results obtained from the statistical methods were analyzed. The research findings indicate that according to the respondents and in all case studies, the responding of the land uses in the urban space to the needs of the triple realms, the indicator of the general mean of the variables was lower than the average level. Meanwhile, meeting the needs of the material realm was at the average level, while meeting the needs of the mental and spiritual realms was lower than the average. Also, the women significantly considered the way of meeting the needs in the urban spaces favorable than men. Eventually, recommendations were presented for the proper distribution of the land uses in the urban spaces to meet the needs of human life.

Keywords: Principle of Balance, Islamic City, Land Use, Human Needs, Realm of Human Life.

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1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most significant principles in the urban environment is considering the principle of balance and its various aspects. The balance in the urban area can be studied in a range from macro-regional and environmental issues (Davoodpor, 2009; Marull, Pino, Tell, & Cordobilla, 2010) to the issues such as proper and beneficial use of land and energy consumption (Liu, Fang, & Li, 2014; Mendoza, Gerado, Granados, & Baravo, 2010) and as visual quality and related to the street walls (Tavasoli, 1997; Pakzad, 2006). However, most studies regarding balance were conducted on the scale of the city, regions, and neighborhoods, and balance was considered as distribution (proper distribution and balanced access to the services) and structural issues (Salighe, 2016; Dadashpour & Alvandi, 2016). These studies have generally addressed the issues, such as the integration of the different urban areas, the physical-spatial segregation (Kheireidin, 2014), the balanced distribution of the services at the city level (Dadashpour, Rostami & Alizadeh, 2014B; Dadashpour, Rostami & Alizadeh, 2013), and balance in the development of different parts of the city (Lmai, 2016).

Land uses are among the responsive factors to the needs of the space audiences in the urban environments, and they must be in a way to meet the human needs in different realms of human life. Reviewing the studies done on the concept of balance and the role of land use in its realization indicates that the balance was addressed as a planning concept on the urban scale. Also, few studies have addressed the practical use of this principle on the scale of urban spaces.

On the other hand, balance is one of the fundamental principles in the Islamic city. It is necessary to consider that in the definitions presented on the Islamic city, the human was mentioned as one of the main and principled constituent components of the city (Naghizadeh, 2016B). Hence, considering his/her demands and needs plays a significant role in the Islamic city. The conducted studies show that considering the balance to respond to the human needs in urban environments has been limited to the material and, to some extent, mental needs (Soltani, Azgoli, & Ahmadian Alashti, 2016; Lang, 1987). However, according to the opinions of the Islamic thinkers, the human needs and realms are various and not limited to one or two levels (Naghizadeh, 2016B, p. 56). Therefore, providing the balance and meeting the needs of the audiences of the urban space have been less addressed in the studies of the Islamic city. The current study aimed to realize that how land use in the urban space can meet the quality of balance among the needs of the different realms of human life. Also, by presenting suggestions and recommendations, the current research attempted to provide the context for land use planning and optimal distribution of the land uses in urban space to meet the concept of balance in triple realms of human life

(which is important in the Islamic thought).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, the literature review addressed some main parts, including the principle of balance and Islamic attitude in this regard, human needs, studying the land uses in the urban spaces, and the human needs in Islamic thought, and investigating the land use in the urban spaces consistent with this thought. Then, the conceptual model of the research was introduced.

2.1. The Principle of Balance and Islamic Perspective on It

The balance is a concept that various scholars in different schools of thought have conducted studies regarding it. Marxism, Liberalism, and Islam are among the most significant schools of thought that presented theories regarding human need and balance. According to these three perspectives, justice and balance are closely related to each other. In fact, without justice, achieving the balance will not be possible. Among the scholars affected by liberalism, Rawl's perspective on justice and balance can be mentioned (Macrus et al., 2009, p. 32). He considers justice as fairness (Nasri, 2003). Harvey is among the theorists affected by Marxism that defines justice as inherent equality. According to his studies, the need is a significant criterion to achieve social justice, which can be investigated on regional and national scales. He considers the need as a concept dependent on the human sense¹ determined based on the market supply and demand (Harvey, 1973). Also, the need is among the issues considered in justice-oriented urban planning. Hence, issues such as redistribution of the services and urban resources based on the requirements of the neighborhoods and regions in the cities, meeting the primary needs, paying attention to the improvement and increase the people's access to the urban resources and services, and creating affordable housing, must be considered to achieve it (Dadashpour, Rostami, & Alizadeh, 2014 A).

According to the Islamic perspective, the balance is a result of establishing justice and fairness. God in Quran has mentioned this concept in various verses, including verse 90 of Nahl surah, which says: "In fact, God commands justice, goodness, and forgiveness to relatives". In this verse, the importance of the principle of justice and commanding to respect it was emphasized. The Islamic teachings are based on the fundamental principle of justice, which puts everything and everyone in its own place and considers worthwhile respect for it. It also considers this fundamental principle (balance) regarding human needs (Naghizadeh, 2016B, p. 254). Islam's emphasis is on this principle in a way that achieving human perfection will be impossible, disregarding it. Islam has considered the balance an appropriate response to the human needs in different realms of his life and opposes any kind of extremity and negligence.

The Islamic thought raises more comprehensive concepts about balance than other schools of thought and includes broader areas. His highness Ali (PBUH), Shahid Motahhari, and Allame Tabatabaei (Salighei, 2016) have presented theories on this principle. In fact, the raised concepts regarding balance in Islam are taken from Quranic concepts. Islam is a religion that is against any kind of extremity and negligence, indicating the emphasis of this religion on balance in all aspects of human life (Hakimi, 2001). Also, due to raising the principle of balance as one of the attributes of divine action, using it and paying attention to it in the Islamic city is necessary. Meanwhile, it noted that the human is God's caliph on the earth and must respect the conditions of trusteeship. In fact, human actions and his/her activities must be formed to manifest the divine attributes through which harmony and balance in nature will not be violated (Naghizadeh, 2016B). According to the abovementioned, the balance and justice in the urban spaces can be investigated based on the aspects of paying attention to the realms of life, the realization of the rights of the citizens, focus on human needs, and the city's consistency with the world (Aminzadeh & Naghizadeh, 2002). The current study considered the balance in the urban spaces as an appropriate response to the human needs in the different realms of life. It is noteworthy that in the Islamic-Iranian urbanism, this principle has a semantic and conceptual affinity with the principles of centralization and decentralization (Ahari & Habibi, 2006, p. 44), moderation (Naghizadeh, 16B, p. 149), dimension, and proportion (Naghizadeh 2016A, p. 168).

2.2. Human Needs

The human is a multifaceted creature, and each of his aspects is specific areas or dimensions, including a set of behaviors, activities, and specific needs. In explaining and describing human realms, the scholars such as Suhrewardi, Molla Sadra (Zamaniha, 2016), and Allameh Tabatabaei (Mosavi Moghadam & Alizamani, 2011) presented some theories. Meanwhile, it is noteworthy that God has considered various needs for each one of these realms and values the proper response to all of them. It indicates that God wants the balance between various needs of humans, and The Holy Qur'an makes general references to this companionship and balance in various aspects of human life². In fact, the type of perspective to the human needs and the classifications considered from them depend on the anthropological perspective of the theorists. The needs might have biological or non-biological origins. Some scholars know the human as a material body, and consequently, consider needs for him/him, which are limited to the physical and physiological needs. Another group mentions the mental needs for the human besides the material body and physiological needs (Lang, 1987). The mental needs usually address the issues, such as social interactions and interpersonal relationships. Among the theorists of this group are

Maslow, Rosenberg, Max-Neef, and Costanza (Soltani, Azgoli, & Ahmadnia Alashti, 2016).

The third group of theorists considers another group of needs for the human besides the mental and physiological needs. This group of needs is known as metaneeds in anthropology, which includes various subjects most raised of which in this area, is the relationship between the human and God (Akoochakian, Dastjani Farahani, & Safari, 2016). Among the theorists of this group are Naghizadeh (Naghizadeh, 2011; Naghizadeh, 2016B), Motahhari, Sadr, and Mesbah Yazdi (Noghrekar, Mozafar, & Taghdir, 2014). Then, it is noteworthy that due to the diversity and broadness of human needs, the present research addressed only the needs that can be met by land use in urban space.

2.3. Investigating the Land Uses in the Urban Space

The land use is a result of a planning process in which some tools, such as per capita, density, access radius to the services, and the measurement of the shortage of land uses are applied on the scales of the neighborhood, district, region, and city. Also, the factors such as "the human-land use relationship" and "the interrelationship between land use and their surrounding environment" are used to investigate the land use in the urban space.

2.3.1. Human-land Use Relationship

The Human-land use relationship addresses the issues, such as the type of land use and its sub-classes, the functional scale, the purpose of referring, the frequency of referring, the time of activity, and the social effects of the land uses. Many studies have been conducted to define and classify the types of land use so far, the most common which is the classification of the Supreme Council of Urban Planning and Architecture of Iran (Secretariat of High Council of Urban Planning and Architecture of Iran, 2012). Every different type of these land uses can be classified on various functional scales (Habibi & Masaeli, 2000) and various sub-classes (Bariassoulis, 2020). Paying attention to the social effects of land uses is also necessary due to the formation of communication functions and social interactions. For instance, gathering, sitting, and talking of the residents of a residential alley in a space in front of their houses, exchanging information, acquiring news, and holding mourning ceremonies and lamentation in the squares and main Bazaars of the city are among these functions (Soltanzadeh, 2006). Eventually, considering the abovementioned principles in this part provides the opportunity of meeting their needs while creating the frequency of referring for the users and providing a context to refer to space with different purposes.

2.3.2. Interrelationship between the Land Uses and their Surrounding Environment

In the interrelationship between the land uses and their

surrounding environment, the issues, such as the need and the compatibility of the land uses with each other, and their relationship with their position and their level of functions are addressed. The relationship and proportion between the land uses, and their location indicates the desirability of the land uses in the urban spaces (Por Mohammadi, 2008; Bahreini, 2008). Accordingly, the land uses must be adjacent to the accesses based on their attributes, the type of economic activity, and their level of importance (Soltanzadeh, 2006; Ahari & Habibi, 2006). In the past cities, the location of the land uses had a specific arrangement so that the main land uses, such as mosques, schools, bathrooms, caravanserais, commercial squares, etc., were located near the main roads (Soltanzadeh, 2006). This arrangement and the formation of the land uses were based on the mosques. In facts, mosques, as arranging land use, led to the emergence of multiple functions, such as performing prayers, doing material affairs, cultural and political exchanges, the place for education, establishing justice, etc. in the urban spaces surrounding them, and through this, they provided an opportunity to meet the various needs of the human (Fakohi, 2006, p. 385). Also, there must be compatibility among the land uses located close to each other so that the function of the land uses does not intervene the others (Bahreini, 2008). On the other hand, the level of compatibility between the land uses, the characteristics of each land use, along the requirements for its formation in different contexts must be evaluated along with the effectiveness on the environment (Por Mohammadi, 2008; Bahreini 2008). Furthermore, the land uses' need for each other, and the relationship between the main and dependent land uses in urban spaces must be investigated to evaluate the level of dependency of the land uses (Bahreini, 2008). Similar to the past cities, considering this relationship

can provide a proper ground for the establishment of the similar and dependent land uses adjacent to each other and the divergent and inconsistent land uses at a distance from each other (Soltanzadeh, 2006).

2.4. The Human Needs in the Islamic Thought and Land Use

In Islamic thought and opinion, the classification of human needs is considered in three realms of human life (Naghizadeh, 2016B, p. 49). The conceptual framework of the current research was developed to measure the balance in the land use to respond to the needs of the spiritual, mental, and physiological needs using related criteria and sub-criteria. The number of the main criteria in the realms of human life can be considered various³. However, due to the research focus on the concept of balance, the number of criteria in each realm was considered equal. In the material realm of life, the criteria of vitality and security were considered. These two criteria are among the most significant qualities in the opinions of western scholars and Iranian thinkers that a desirable urban space must enjoy. These two qualities are among the functional component of the urban space, and thus, their sub-criteria must also be considered (Golkar, 2001, p. 131; Pakzad, 2005; Carmona & Tiesedell, 2007; Naghizadeh, 2016A). In the mental realm of life, the criteria were selected that were also considered in the perspectives of the Iranian and western thinkers. Therefore, the criteria of the sense of belonging to a place and the cultural and historical identity were chosen along their related sub-criteria (Lang, 1987; Golkar, 2001; Naghizadeh, Seghatoleslami, & Bashiri, 2013). In the spiritual realm of life, the criteria of "thralldom and worship" and "admonish" of the urban space were considered along the related sub-criteria (Naghizadeh, 2016B) (Fig.1).

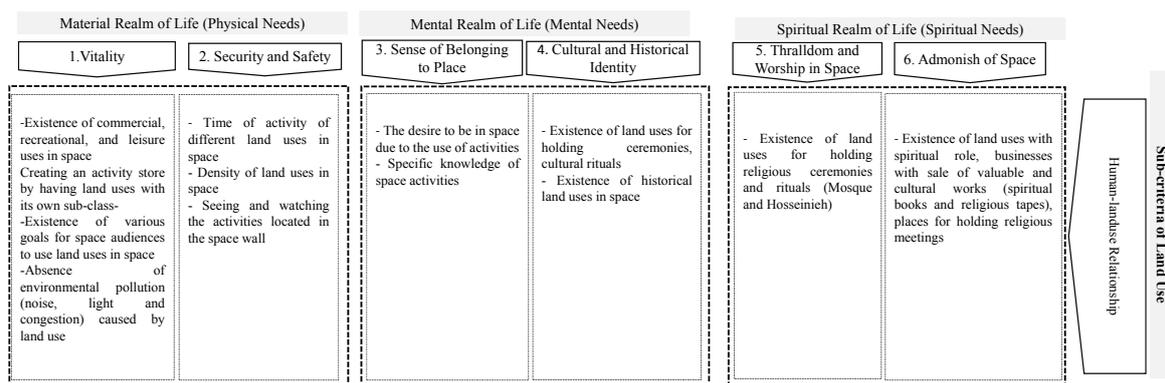


Fig. 1. The Evaluated Criteria and Sub-criteria in Responding to Human Needs in Different Realms Using the Land Use in the Urban Spaces

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The current research method was divided into two main parts. In the first part, by investigating the texts using a systematic review of the related texts, the

theoretical framework of the research, including the criteria for evaluating the principle of balance to be applied in the research, was determined. In the second part, which includes investigating the case studies, the field study and statistical analysis were the research

method, and SPSS software was utilized. The case studies were considered the four urban spaces selected from different periods of the physical development of the city. After collecting the information in the case studies, the analyses and statistical tests were used in the research process.

3.1. Data Collection Method

The information collection method in the current research was distributing the questionnaires in the case studies and among the users of the urban spaces. In the current research, the users of streets included pedestrians, residents, and employees. Considering that the size of the statistical population was not specific, Kohen's model was used to determine the sample size. By considering the error value of 0.01 and assuming the standard deviation to be 0.04, the sample size in each one of the urban spaces was determined as 60. Therefore, 240 questionnaires were distributed in the four urban spaces in the current study. The sampling method was the simple sampling method. The questionnaires were filled in person.

Proper questions were considered for all the sub-criteria of the urban spaces using a questionnaire in collecting the research information. The questions corresponding to each one of the sub-criteria were raised in three realms of human life. The five-point Likert scale was used to score the questions. Therefore, excellent, desirable, relatively desirable, weak, and very weak were used to evaluate the people's responses, and corresponding to that, 5 for excellent, 4 for desirable, 3 for relatively desirable, 2 for weak, and 1 for very weak were considered for each answer. The mean indicator was used to evaluate the respondents' satisfaction with the sub-criteria of the research. It must be noted that the scores of the respondents can vary from 13 to a maximum of 65 (considering 13 sub-criteria and the range of the score per sub-criteria). Table 1 presents the general information of the respondents participating in the research. The research validity was confirmed using the correctional opinions of experts and scholars on the questions of the questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha test was used for the research reliability. Cronbach's alpha value was calculated 0.7 for the questionnaire, indicating that the questionnaire enjoys relatively desirable and acceptable reliability.

3.2. Urban Spaces and the Criteria for Selecting Them

Some criteria were considered for the case study of Mashhad and the urban spaces to investigate. One of the criteria was that the case studies must be considered from different places of the city. However, they must have an almost similar and homogenous functional identity. Considering that the physical development periods of Mashhad city can be classified into three periods (historical texture, inner texture, and new texture) (Seghatoleslami, 2011), and given

the importance of the historical texture, two samples, including a historical urban space (Sarshour Bazaar) and a contemporary urban space in the historical texture (Khosravi street) were selected, and one case study was considered and among other textures. Therefore, four urban spaces were chosen, and the criteria considered to select these samples were as follows:

- The land use and type of activities: The prevailing land use in four urban spaces was commercial land use, and the sub-activities in four samples were almost similar and homogenous.
- The functional scape of the land uses: Mosque was present in all samples.
- The length of the axis in all samples: nearly similar length of a street was investigated in the case studies.

A) First Sample (Sarshour Bazaar)

Sarshour Bazaar is one of the historical Bazaars in the city of Mashhad. This bazaar included the historical bazaar of Mashhad, leading to the holy shrine. A part of this Bazaar was destroyed due to the intervention of the contemporary era in the texture of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH). The land uses of this Bazaar function mostly related to the pilgrims and passengers and includes the residential places and commercial spaces related to the souvenirs of Mashhad city. There are two historical mosques of Al-Sahla and Zolfaghar in the Sarshour Bazaar, and there are some religious spaces in the surrounding texture.

B) Second Sample (Khosravi Street)

The first period of physical growth and development of Mashhad is considered from the beginning of the formation of this city until before 1921 and includes the historical texture of Mashhad. Khosravi Street was established in the first Pahlavi era. The urban space of the street has a length of 400 meters. It has been considered one of the main commercial streets in the city of Mashhad since the past, and nowadays, it is considered a center for selling the bride and groom clothes, providing dowry households in the city of Mashhad.

C) Third Sample (Daneshgah Avenue)

The second period of the development of Mashhad dates back to 1920 until the middle of the 1960s, and before preparing the detailed and master plans for Mashhad, and includes the inner texture of the city. Daneshgah Avenue was established in the 1920s. In the second Pahlavi era, this avenue extended to Kooch Sangi Park of Mashhad. A part of this street was addressed in the current research. The inner area of this street, with a length of 500 meters, begins from Saadi Square (Sarab) and extends to the Golestan intersection. In the urban space understudy, in addition to the various land uses, there are the main commercial land uses of selling clothes and shoes on the urban scale.

D) Fourth Sample (Rahnamaei Street)

The third period of the development of Mashhad dates back to the late 1340s until now and includes the new texture of the city formed based on the urban development plans. Rahnamaei Street was

established based on the first detailed and master plans of Mashhad in this period and the west of the city. In the past, the land uses of this street were mostly residential. However, since 30 years ago, its land uses have become commercial and are active on the urban and regional scales. The prevailing sub-activities of

this street are selling different types of clothes. The urban space under study is a part of this street with a length of approximately 500 meters from the three-way Rahnamaei Street to the Salman intersection. The concentration of the commercial unit is also in this area (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. The Land Uses in the Urban Spaces Understudy

Table 1. The General Information of the Respondents to the Questionnaires in the Urban Spaces

Variable	Samples	Sarshour Bazaar	Khosravi Street	Daneshgah Avenue	Rahnamaei Street
Gender	Male	80%	64%	62%	36%
	Female	20%	36%	38%	64%
Age	Less than 20 Years Old	14%	0%	8%	16%
	20-40 Years Old	84%	68%	78%	76%
	40-69 Years Old	2%	26%	12%	8%
	Over 60 Years Old	0%	6%	2%	0%
Education Level	Under Diploma	10%	18%	10%	12%
	Diploma	48%	48%	34%	52%
	Bachelor's Degree	38%	32%	40%	36%
	Master's or Ph.D.	4%	2%	16%	0%
Residence	Local Resident	88%	98%	94%	96%
	Non-local Resident	12%	2%	6%	4%

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the respondents' opinions on six criteria and their related 13 sub-criteria were presented in Table 2. The mean indicator was used to analyze the sub-criteria for each one of the case studies. The results showed that in the physiological realm and according to the respondents' opinions, in the qualities of vitality and security in four urban spaces, in most sub-criteria, the mean indicator was average or close to the average level (3). Meanwhile, Rahnamaei Street was evaluated at a higher level according to the mentioned criteria due to the higher presence and more refereeing of the families to purchase clothes (Table 2). In the mental realm and according to the respondents' opinions, in the qualities of the sense of belonging to the place and cultural and historical identity, the mean indicator was lower than the average level in all urban spaces (3) (Table 2). The results showed that Although Sarshour Bazaar is considered a part of the historic spaces, the mean indicator was lower than the average level, one of the main reasons for which can be considered the distressed texture of the urban space. Merely, the mean indicator of the sense of belonging to the place was evaluated higher than the average level in one of the sub-criteria (tendency to be present in the place) due to the commercial activities which are selling the different types of clothes and higher and more frequent

refereeing of the audience to this space. Also, due to the higher presence of this street in terms of the extensive presence of the families in this space, it can be expected that the respondents had a sense of belonging to this urban space. Furthermore, Daneshgah Avenue has had a more cultural role due to the medical faculty and some educational activities in the past. However, after relocating the faculty and its related activities, the cultural role of this street has currently been weakened. The respondents' opinions regarding the qualities of thralldom and worship in the space and the quality of admonishing of the space were evaluated in the spiritual realm. Considering that the Sarshour Bazaar is a historic urban space, the mean indicator was higher than the average in one of the sub-criteria (mosque and Husseinieh land uses). However, in the other three urban spaces, the mean indicator was lower than the average level (3). Although there is a mosque along the street in other urban spaces understudy, one of the main reasons for the weak evaluation of the respondents can be considered the great privilege of the commercial land uses in four urban spaces. Meanwhile, although Sarshour Bazaar and Khosravi street are located in the old texture of Mashhad and adjacent to the holy shrine, they are no different than other urban spaces due to the concentration of the residential units in the former, and the higher concentration of the commercial units, banks, and financial institutions in the latter (Table 2).

Table 2. The Mean of the Respondents' Opinions on the Criteria and Sub-criteria in Triple Realms of Human Life in the Urban Spaces

Realms	Criteria	Sub-criteria	Mean of Sarshour Bazaar	Mean of Khosravi Street	Mean of Daneshgah Avenue	Mean of Rahnamaei Street
Physiological Realm	Vitality	Leisure, Recreational, and Commercial Land Use	2.8	2.5	3.1	3.2
		Creating the activity store by having land uses with their own sub-class	2.7	3.5	3.7	3.3

Realms	Criteria	Sub-criteria	Mean of Sarshour Bazaar	Mean of Khosravi Street	Mean of Daneshgah Avenue	Mean of Rahnamaei Street
Physiological Realm	Vitality	Various purpose for the audience of the space to use the land uses in the space	3.88	3.4	3.5	3.7
		The lack of environmental pollution (sound, light, and congestion)	2.9	2.1	2.8	3
	Security	The time of the activity of different land uses in the space	2.9	2.7	2.3	3.3
		The density of land uses in the space	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.7
		Observing and watching the activities established in the space	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3
Mental Realm	Sense of Belonging to the Place	The tendency to be present in the space due to using activities	2.6	2.8	2.7	3.3
		The proper and specific mental image of the activities of the space	2.5	2.7	2.7	3
	Historic and Cultural Identity	The existence of land uses to hold ceremonies and cultural rituals	2	1.9	2.2	2.2
		The existence of the historic land uses in the space	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.1
Spiritual Realm	Thralldom and Worship in the Space	The existence of the land uses to hold the religious ceremonies and rituals (mosque and Husseinieh)	3.4	2.7	2.3	2.4
	Admonishing Quality of Space	The existence of the land uses with spiritual role, commercial land uses by selling the cultural and value products and the places for religious meetings in the space	2.4	2.1	2.4	2.1

In the following, the normality of the distribution of the research data was investigated to determine the proper method for the statistical tests. Investigating the results of the variables in the four case studies indicated that the Smirnov-Kolmogorov test is significant ($\text{sig}=0.004$), and the non-parametric methods must be used in the statistical tests and information analysis. Considering that the data do not have the normal distribution, the Chi-square method was used to test the mean indicator in the four case studies. The significance level for the variables varies from $\text{sig}=0.000$ to $\text{sig}=0.005$. Thus, the mean indicator is acceptable for each one of the variables. The sum of the mean of the scores for each one of the urban spaces and the total mean indicator of the variables are as follows: Sarshour Bazaar with the score of 37.08 and mean value of 2.58, Khosravi street with the score of 35.2 and mean value of 2.7, Daneshgah Avenue with the score of 37 and mean value of 2.84, and Rahnamaei street with the score of 37.6, and mean value of 2.98. Therefore, the total mean value indicator of all the variables in four case studies is lower than the average level, and among the samples, according to

the respondents' opinions and considering the concept of balance in meeting human needs, Rahnamaei Street has a more desirable condition.

Comparing the indicator of means was used to compare and determine the significant difference between the samples in the proper meeting of the human needs in different realms of human life. Kruskal-Walis test, which is one of the non-parametric tests, was used to study and compare the four samples with each other properly by considering the data resulted from the questionnaire. The results of the test for 240 respondents indicate that the minimum score was 24 and the maximum score was 56. Also, the results of the Kruskal-Walis test showed that the significance value was calculated at $\text{sig}=0.127$ (Table 3). Therefore, given the error value of 5% and the confidence level of 95% and considering the significant value that must be lower or equal to 0.05, it can be said that the level of meeting the human needs in different realms of human life in each four urban space does not have a significant difference from each other.

Table 3. The Statistical Results of Kruskal-Walis Test

Values of Test	Chi-square	Degree of Freedom	Asymp. Sig
	2.28	2	0.127

4.1. Investigating the Gender and Residence Type in Four Case Studies

The Man-Whitney test was used to analyze the gender, residence type, and the impact on the satisfaction with meeting the needs to determine the significant difference between the mean of the different groups of the research. The results showed that there was a

significant difference of 0.034 among the groups of men and women, and women significantly considered meeting the needs in the urban spaces more desirable than the men. Also, there was a significant coefficient of 0.261 between the residence type (local and non-local group), indicating that there was no significant difference (Table 4).

Table 4. Examining the Comparison of the Mean between Different Groups in the Urban Spaces

Variable	Group	Mean	Standard Deviation	Z	Significance Coefficient
Gender	Male	36.35	56.74	-2.119	0.034
	Female	38.23	6		
Residence Type	Local	37.24	6.74	-1.123	0.261
	Non-local	34.75	6.89		

4.2. Investigating the Age and Education Level in Four Case Studies

Mean comparison Kruskal-Walis test was used to analyze the age and education level and the difference

among the means. The significance coefficient of the test in the education level was 0.379, and 0.115 in age. Therefore, there was no significant difference between the different groups in these two variables (Table 5).

Table 5. The Test of Comparing the Mean between the Different Groups in Urban Spaces

Variable	Group	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degree of Freedom	Significance Coefficient
Education Level	Under Diploma	38.04	7.02	3	0379
	Diploma	36.45	6.17		
	Bachelor's Degree	37.4	6.76		
	Master's and Ph.D. Degrees	38.18	6.69		
Age	Under 20 Years Old	38.98	5.9	3	0.115
	20-40 Years Old	37.14	6.52		
	40-60 Years Old	35.96	6.08		
	Over 60 Years Old	33.25	10.56		

In conclusion, evaluating the criteria and sub-criteria in four urban spaces indicated that meeting the needs in the physiological realm was evaluated at the average level. However, it was evaluated weak and very weak levels in the related sub-criteria of the mental and spiritual realms of human life.

5. CONCLUSION

Balance in the Islamic perspective is defined as the appropriate response to human needs in different realms of human life. In the current research, balance refers to the harmonic relationship between the realms of life and the lack of overcoming one another. Accordingly, the physiological realm of human life in meeting the material needs of human life in the urban spaces, including vitality, security, and safety, was addressed in the land use area. The needs, such

as a sense of belonging to a place and historic and cultural identity, were considered. The spiritual realm of human life provides a proper context for the human-god relationship and the possibility for conducting religious activities of the urban spaces where the qualities, such as thralldom and worship and admonishing of the urban space are raised. The current study developed a model regarding investigation and evaluation of providing the balance in different realms of life in urban spaces and regarding the human-land use relationship, which includes 6 criteria and 13 sub-criteria for evaluation. According to the conducted studies on the criteria and sub-criteria developed in the current research and studying them in the studied areas and using the statistical analyses, responsiveness of the urban spaces to the human need was at an average level in the physiological needs. However, it was weak in the mental and spiritual needs, and the land use in these

spaces could not meet the needs in these two realms of human life.

Furthermore, the results showed that the historic urban spaces act more successfully in meeting the needs of the spiritual realm of human life due to the existence of various religious spaces wherein, compared to other spaces. However, these urban spaces are associated with distress in the physical space and cannot function successfully in meeting the needs of the mental and material realms of human life. The findings of the current research indicated that in most contemporary urban spaces that are considered shopping centers, the needs of the mental and spiritual realms of human life are not met successfully. Most of these spaces are focused on meeting the needs of the material realm of human life (with an emphasis on forming commercial spaces with different types of activities) and neglect the needs of other realms. Nevertheless, different types of land use and activities, such as caravanserais, mosques, educational spaces, and many other public spaces besides the commercial land use, were located

in the space of Bazaar in the old Bazaars. Therefore, responding to the needs of the spiritual and mental realms of human life in urban spaces, which are weak, must be taken into considerable account. In land-use and cities planning and designing the urban spaces located in the urban textures, or designing the urban spaces for the new urban fabric and new cities (where the functional scale of the space is urban or regional scale), it is recommended that the distribution of land uses be such that the appropriate distribution of land uses that are compatible with each other can meet the needs of the three realms of human life for the audience and users of urban spaces. Otherwise, meeting the needs of one realm of life (usually the material realm) will prevail over the other realms. Also, for future research, it should be noted that the results of this research have only compared four study samples in the city of Mashhad, and to generalize the results to other urban spaces in different urban contexts and according to their different formation, more case studies in different cities must be investigated.

END NOTE

1. Harvey defines the human needs in 9 classes of food, clothes, health services, social services, and environment-related services, consumer goods, recreational facilities, pleasure, and public transportation.
2. Many verses in the Holy Qur'an deal with balance, including balance in worship (Surah al-Isra', verse 110), balance in affairs and the right way of life (Surah An'am, verses 152 and 153), creation of man (Surah Sajdah, verse 9), balance in Individual and social behaviors (Surah Luqman, verse 19) and so on.
3. One of the significant points to keep in mind is that human needs in every realm of life have their own results. For example, the quality of security can be projected both in the material realm and the spiritual realm. However, in the present study, due to the fact that the research was done in a field study and the opinions of the respondents are important, and in order that they answer the questions properly, human needs in each realm have been considered differently from each other.

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