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Evaluation of the Quality of Life in Urban Texture with Rural Core Case Study: Naimeabad Neighborhood, Yazd, Iran

Zahra Fotouhi[a]*, Ahmad Esteghlal[b], Mehdi Montazerolhodjah[c], Alireza Dehghani[d]

[a]*Department of Art and Architecture, Yazd Branch, Islamic Azad University, Yazd, Iran*
[b]*Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Art and Architecture, Yazd Branch, Islamic Azad Uniersity, Yazd, Iran*
[c]*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Art and Architecture, Yazd University, Yazd, Iran*
[d]*Department of Art and Architecture, Yazd Branch, Islamic Azad University, Yazd, Iran*

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Abstract

In recent decades the unprecedented growth of urbanization, which has been the result of economic and industrial growth, has led to the expansion of cities. Some of the villages located away from the city, within the urban texture, the surrounding land which is considered more evolving as the urban development axes in the metropolitan plans. One of the most noticeable and disturbing issues in these areas is the mismatch problem between the new built environment around the countryside and the immediate urban fabric, which has a significant impact on the quality of urban living. This research aims at evaluating and ranking the quality of life indicators, based on the TOPSIS technique, by exploring the Naimeabad neighborhood of Yazd city, which has a rustic nucleus located in the heart of the city. The study implemented descriptive-analytical method for data collection and analysis. The library data were collected using questionnaires and field surveys. Sample population was selected using simple random sampling method. Cronbach's alpha was used for 288 sample selections and confirmed the reliability of the questionnaire. In addition, the information obtained from the questionnaire was analyzed and ranked using the TOPSIS technique. The research results shows that the social dimension gained the best points and the economic dimension gained the lowest.

Keywords: Quality of Life; Rural Texture; Naimeabad Yazd; TOPSIS Technique

* Corresponding author. Tel: +98-9360462253.
E-mail address: fotouhi_udm@yahoo.com.

1. Introduction

From the distant past, residential neighborhoods of cities, as in urban life, have had an essential role in living cells. In the past, urban neighborhoods were a place for gathering people of similar ethnic, religious, economic, social characteristics, and so on. Following the accumulation of more people with common features in one area, that part of the city would acquire a particular and well-known identity that differentiated it from other surrounding areas. Over the past few decades, major changes have also been made to the lifestyles in the neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the quality of life of the city which would solve the current problems, is not a process of one-dimensional economic development at the national level, and a purely physical-urban development on the scale of the city, but is also dependent on achieving more comprehensive and multidimensional criteria in the realm of planning.

Accordingly, the purpose of the urban quality of life is to consider social and environmental indicators, while also paying attention to physical and cultural indicators. Based on different approaches, the main goal of urban planning and design is to achieve the optimal quality of social and civil spaces, and housing and environment for the citizens. The issue of achieving the most desirable quality of life has been one of the long-term desires of mankind throughout history, but with regard to economic and industrial growth since the 1960s, special attention has been paid to a wide range of topics in various fields. Quality of life is a complex and multidimensional concept, which is directly related to the time and the place in which an individual lives, as well as social values which are influenced by researchers (Mahdavi et al., 2012: 286).

2. Background of Related Studies in Iran

Even after the economic growth in 1960s, the desired quality of life for humans has continued to attract the thoughts of philosophers, scholars, scientists, and government officials. In this regard, recently, large number of researchers in different areas have examined the concept of quality of life, in works such as social studies (Wang et al., 2010; J. Mason et al., 2010), economic studies (Wang et al., 2010; Whitehead et al., 2006), health and medical (Habib et al., 2009; Ryashchenko & Gukalova, 2010), environmental studies (Godefroid, 2001; M. J. Geelen et al., 2009; Moser, 2009 & S. Westaway, 2006), transportation and quality of life (EL Spinney et al., 2009; de Groot & Steg, 2006), land use and quality of life (Preuss & W. Vemuri, 2004; O. Marquez & C. Smith, 1999), and other types of studies (Manoochehri et al., 2011). In addition, international organizations such as: UNDP, UN, WHO, have given their desired opinions in relation to the quality of life (Faraji Mollaei et al., 2010). This concept was introduced for the first time in December 1991, in the symposium on Healthy Cities in Tehran, with the slogan, "healthy city for a better life". The World Health Organization in 1996 organized the 56 cities' work in the project in Iran, until the end of 1996 (Manoochehri et al., 2010). Also, in 2000, internal studies, from the Management and Planning Organization of Iran introduced three indicators: life expectancy, percentage of literacy, and per capita income as the most important factors in the quality of life (Management and Planning Organization, 2001). Table 1, provides an overview summary of studies regarding this subject investigated in Iran.

Table 1 Literature review of studies related to the quality of life in Iran

Authors	Year	Results and research approaches
Shahkouhi et al	2014	Results of this study suggest that different socioeconomic, physical, and environmental dimensions of quality of life have different areas. It also showed that there is a direct relationship between the sense of belonging to a place and satisfaction with the quality of life.
Bandar Abad & Ahmadi Nejad	2012	Having a mismatch between objective and subjective satisfaction is a result of the relationship between subjective and objective aspects of the quality of life and reflects the lack of proper definition of 'per capita' and 'standard accessibility', which shows the importance of participatory planning based on public opinion.
Hatami Nejad et al	2012	Existence of clustering (positive spatial auto-correlation), and spatial heterogeneity distribution of quality of life index and its four components at the level areas of Tehran show that some areas need more public intervention, provision of social programs, and public infrastructure.
Jamshidi et al	2012	Apart from the quality of residential environment, other quality aspect of life in the region is below the national average. Also, there is a positive significant relationship between the population and the quality of life in the village.
Dadashpour & Roshani	2012	In most sub-indices, the interaction between the individual, the environment, and the level of satisfaction depends on the facilities and the physical environment. Also, there is a significant difference between the perceived quality of the neighborhood and the objective quality.
Abbas Zade & Tamri	2012	Components of vitality, legibility, safety, security, and the permeability of the main elements are considered as the factors influencing the quality of urban spaces and are significantly associated with level of social interactions and the presence of citizens in pedestrian-oriented urban spaces of Tabriz.
Ghalibaf et al	2011	Quality of life in the region in terms of environmental, social, and economic conditions was between undesirable and moderate in terms of transport and communication.
Pourtaheri et al	2011	Quality of life in the area in terms of education, residential, physical environment, income, and employment was between lower than average and moderate in terms of quality indicators, such as health, safety and physical conditions.
Heidari	2011	There is a significant difference in favor of urban areas between the quality of life in urban and rural areas.
Lotfi & Saberi	2012	Quality of the life of citizens and the inequality in the urban areas are divided into three levels: high, medium, low or semi deprived.
Faraji Molaei	2010	According to the wide gap in economic prosperity, income is the most important indicator of quality of life in the region.
Rezvani et al	2009	In general, the correlation between objective and subjective dimensions of the quality of life is not high.
Ghiasvand	2009	There is a positive significant relationship between social capital and the assessment of the quality of the physical environment (mental) by people, sense of belonging, and neighborhood satisfaction.
Rezvani & Mansourian	2007	Assess the quality of rural life based on human needs with indicators and descriptors measurement.
Rabbani & Kianpour	2007	This study provides a method for the quality of life, and found that there is no significant relationship between age and gender with the quality of life, but there is a direct relationship with marital status.

2.1. Quality of Life

The phrase 'quality of life' in Latin means "Quality" that is how to extract and literally means the circumstances of life. Some people know quality of life as viability in an area, others as a

measure for the charm, welfare, social welfare, happiness, satisfaction, etc. (Epley & Menon, 2008). Quality of life for a person depends on subjective and objective facts of life and his perceptions of these factors (Lotfi, 2009). Quality of life is not a new concept, and mankind has always worked to achieve it. Philosophers, poets, religious leaders, and revolutionaries have provided their insights on how to achieve a good life over thousands of years (Andrews, 1976). But, for the first time, in 1920 Pigou in an economy and welfare book used the term "quality of life" as a specialized term (Mokhtari & Nazari, 2010). Also, in 1955, with the foundation of the International Association for studying the quality of life, this concept was institutionalized (Vennhoven, 1994). Later, in 1960, the concept of quality of life was promoted in European countries (Ghalibaf et al., 2011). Before the 1970s, quality of life indicators in the studies were objective, but in the 1970s, subjective indicators were added to measure the quality of life. In 1976, Campbell and his colleagues, for the first time, noted the subjective and psychological indices of quality of life (Noghani et al., 2008). According to McLaren (1996), it is generally agreed that there are two distinct types of indices to measure the quality of life; the first are objective indicators that measures tangible aspects of the built environment, the natural environment, and the social and economic areas, and the second type are the subjective indicators that measures the sense of well-being and satisfaction of certain aspects of life (Lotfi, 2009). These two are often individually, and rarely in combination, used to measure the quality of life, because the difference in the quality of life studies is the distinction between objective and subjective dimensions of the quality of life. Thus, researchers study quality of life in two categories of indicators:

1. Factors that study the objective indicators, such as: housing, social, cultural, and economic characteristics and so on.
2. Factors that study subjective indicators, such as: satisfaction and motivation.

Table 2 Quality of life analysis

Dimensions	Definitions	Method of Measuring
Subjective	Subjective aspects of quality of life reflect people's perception and evaluation of their lives.	By using subjective indicators measured.
		In one of the most important methods, subjective quality of life can be the cumulative amount of satisfaction in various areas of life.
		Alternatively, subjective quality of life in terms of overall satisfaction of life is measured as a whole. In this way, overall life satisfaction is usually measured by witnesses or logical responses.
Objective	Represents external conditions of life	The objective quality of life is measured by using objective indicators related to the visible and tangible realities of life. This index is obtained from secondary data.

However, these two categories in the index of quality of life studies are complementary to each other, and they should be used in conjunction with each other (Pour Ahmed & Zarei, 2015). Noll (2000) stated that based on objective and subjective dimensions of quality of life, we can conceptualize well-being as a 2*2 matrix that includes the states of exclusion, adaptation, and inconsistency (Rapley, 2003). According to Table 3, if an individual has good objective and subjective conditions, the state of “welfare" exists. If both conditions are bad, the state of "exclusion” exists. If the objective conditions are good and subjective conditions are bad, "disharmony" exists, and if the objective conditions are bad and subjective conditions are good, "adaptation" exists (Rezvani et al., 2009).

Table 3 Different states of quality of life, combining with objective and subjective dimensions. (Rezvani et al., 2009, quoted by Rapley)

Objective conditions of life	Subjective evaluation	
	good	bad
good	welfare	disharmony
bad	adaptation	exclusion

2.2. Urban Quality of Life (UQoL)

The QoL study in cities is of particular interest. According to Li and Weng (2007), ‘‘the study of the QoL in the cities of both developing and developed countries is gaining interest from a variety of disciplines, such as planning, geography, sociology, economics, psychology, political science, behavioral medicine, marketing and management, and is becoming an important tool for policy evaluation, rating of places, urban planning and management”.

In recent years, the effects of demographic growth, urban expansion, environmental degradation and the increase in undesirable social patterns have attracted new attention to planning and urban management (Pichardo-Muñiz, 2011).

The main challenge of the UQoL evaluation is to include as many of its dimensions as possible. To achieve that goal, several indices are generally used; all of them combine several indicators (Babbie, 1999). The UQoL is a hierarchical, multi-attribute concept characterized by several underlying attributes that, in turn, are defined by more specific underlying attributes. These attributes (D’Acci & Lombardi, 2010; Ulengin et al., 2001; van Poll, 1997) are: environmental quality, air quality, green spaces, jobs, social condition, urban quality, architecture quality, pedestrian areas, etc.

Estimating the urban quality of life is a complex quality assessment of many different features that must be considered simultaneously. The behavioral decision theory provides a number of methods for the analysis of multi-attribute objects/concepts (D’Acci, 2014). A right selection of variables and dimensions is essential for UQoL assessment. Table 4 shows the dimensions included in several studies (Cabello Eras, 2014).

Table 4 Dimensions included in UQoL studies (Reference: Cabello Eras, 2014)

References	**Dimensions**
Carranza Torres (2010)	- Urban environment - Public service infrastructure - Private service infrastructure - Local economic development
Orellana (2011)	- Employment - Business frame - Socio-cultural frame - Network connectivity - Health - Environmental quality - Housing conditions
Ramı´rez Casas (2006)	- Urban services and equipment - Urban environment
Herna´ndez Aja (2008)	- Social dimension - Economic performance

	- Environmental quality - Cultural development
Rodrı´guez and Go´mez (2008)	- Urban environment - Urban equipment - Urban services - Urban planning - Socio-economic performance
Lotfi and Solaimani (2009)	- Environmental quality - Economical quality - Social quality
Leva (2005)	- Habitat - Social - Economic - Subjective
Azizi et al. (2011)	- Basic needs: housing, nutrition, resources (energy, capital, facilities, and equipment), communications, and education - Well-being needs of disabled and elderly: individual development and social development
Li and Weng (2007)	- Population density - Housing density - Median family income - Median household income, - Per capita income - Unemployment rate - Percentage of families under poverty level

3. Case Study

The study area is Naeemabad district of Yazd city; this neighborhood is located in the division of urban areas of neighborhood 1 from zone 3 of district 2 of Yazd municipality. In less than a century, the neighborhood has turned from a small village into a residential neighborhood in the metropolitan capital. This neighborhood is limited to the Akbarabad neighborhood from north to Khorramshah district, west to the railway and Qasemabad area, and to the south and southwest to the Silo and Kui Fayzia neighborhoods and to the east Mahdi Abad and Hojjat neighborhoods. The neighborhood is generally located in the boundary of the Ayatollah Kashani Street, Daneshamooz Boulevard, Shahid Beheshti Boulevard, and Imam Jafar Sadegh Boulevard, with an approximate area of 399 hectares (fig 1).

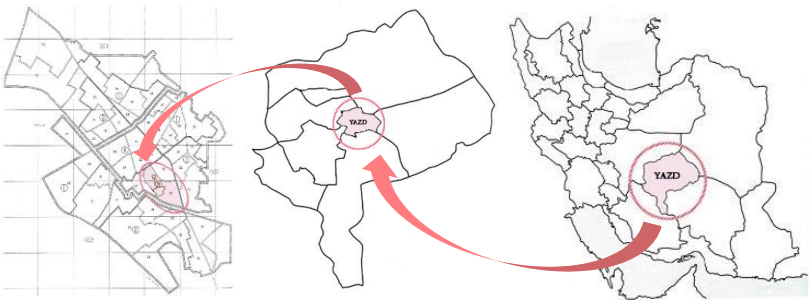

Fig 1 Location site

Naimeabad is located within the city of Yazd and close to the city center, at a short distance from the old and the new urban centers. Also, the immediate vicinity of the arterial roads of the city (Kashani Street and Imam Jafar Sadegh Boulevard) makes it easy to get to the other parts of the city. It is worth noting that Ayatollah Kashani Street provides direct access to Naimeabad's historic district and the old city center, and Daneshamooz Boulevard provides a direct access to Naimeabad's new urban center. In general, it can be said that the structure of the Naimeabad neighborhood is in the form of two parts, which are the old (rural), and the new (urban). The first part, which is the old and the rural area, includes gardens, agricultural land, and rural houses, while the second part is a series of new constructions (mostly around the urban passages and core), which have significant differences with the first part. There are many factors involved in the division of the neighborhood in this way. The first and most basic factor can be considered the sudden merger of the village in the city, or rather, the change in the old structure of Naimeabad village from the consequences of joining the village. However, this heterogeneity and coordination between the two adjacent urban areas has led to many issues (fig 2).

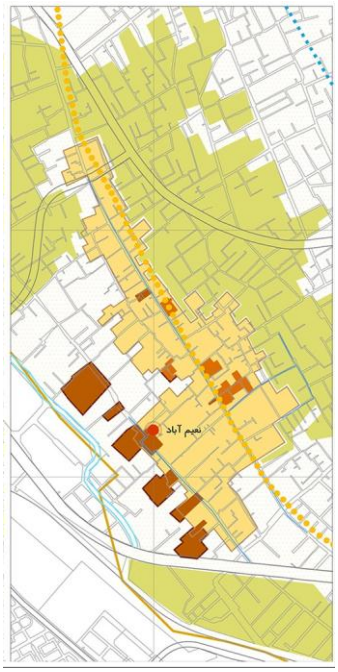

Fig 2 Location site

4. Methodology

In the present research, descriptive-analytical method was used, and through literature review and focusing on theoretical foundations of the subject, and then using the analytical-comparative method, the criteria and indicators were identified among the views of different thinkers. Using fundamental ideas of quality of life, the research sought to identify the criteria for the quality of life in both cognitive and objective dimensions and prioritize these criteria based on the analysis of the impact of location. Finally, the criteria have been revised and modified in order to localize and adapt it to the existing context of Iran. Afterwards, by using the questionnaires, the indicators were extracted from the residents, and then they were prioritized and analyzed by preparing the database and using the TOPSIS technique.

4.1. TOPSIS Technique

There are several methods and techniques to analyze the data, but due to the high number of criteria (38 cases) and the existence of multiple relationships between them, it is necessary to use multi-criteria decision-making methods, among which Analysis Hierarchy and TOPSIS method are more popular. Hierarchy analysis is one of the most widely used methods for ranking and determining the factors. Using paired comparisons of options, priority is given to each criterion, therefore, the number of criteria and options should be such that the number of proxy comparisons in the questionnaire is reasonable. Therefore, considering the number of criteria in this study, the use of this technique did not seem appropriate. Hence, the TOPSIS technique was used to rank and compare the options, to choose the best option, to determine the intervals between the options, and to group them. There is no limit to the use of quantitative or qualitative data, as well as the number of criteria and options. Therefore, this research implemented TOPSIS technique to analyze the data. This model is based on several indicators that can solve many decision-making issues for managers and planners. The model was first introduced in 1981, by Hwang and Yoon, and has been acknowledged as one of the best and most accurate decision-making methods among planners.

This technique is based on theoretical foundations, in contrast with multi-factor decision-making techniques, so that in this technique many problems of numerical-numerical methods have been solved. The theoretical foundations of this technique are based on the process in which, it first calculates the most efficient mode and the most difficult mode for each indicators, and then, the distance between each option of positive and negative ideal is calculated.

The option chosen is the one that has the shortest distance from the positive ideal and the longest distance from the negative ideal solution. This technique is designed to be able to interact with the types of indicators in terms of positive or negative influence on the purpose of decision making in the model, as well as the weight and the degree of importance of each indicator in the model. In order to use TOPSIS technique to rank and select the best option among available options, the following steps should be taken (Asgharpur, 2006: 87):

Decision making matrix

- Weighting indicators
- Quantifying the decision matrix
- Formation of an unbalanced matrix
- Find the unbalanced matrix
- Find the positive and negative ones
- Find the distance of each indicator from the cost of an individual for each option
- Find the relative proximity of each option and the best condition
- Ranking

The last step is to rank the options and determine the best option. For this purpose, it is enough to arrange the relative distance of each option, calculated using the above relationship and arranged in order of largest to smallest. In this case, the option with the largest relative distance to the other options will have the highest rating.

4.2. Descriptive Data

The quality of life satisfaction questionnaire was prepared to document the status of the area in relation to each of the extracted criteria. Since the indices and variables of this research are qualitative, in the current questionnaire, after the validation of scientific assemblies approved the

use of the Likert scale anchored at very low = 0 to very high = 1, criteria, ease of accountability and design evaluation were considered for operational purposes.

The statistical population of all residents was from Naimeabad, with sample size of 288 people. Validity and reliability of the questionnaire were evaluated using the Cronbach's alpha coefficient evaluation method. The high score of 0.91 for the questionnaires in this test indicates the reliability of the questionnaire. The questionnaires were completed by different age groups, in relation to the range, of which 57.6% were men and 42.4% were women.

4.3. Analytical Data

Using the answers provided by people about the satisfaction of quality of life, the prioritization of criteria in the TOPSIS technique and the final score of the criteria are given in Table 5.

Table 5 Indicator Analysis Results

Rating	Criteria	Subject	di+	di-	Cl	Ci
1	A18	The sense of belonging to the city and neighborhood	0.000037	0.000104	0.736845	0.833867337
2	A24	Safety	0.000053	0.000074	0.583012	0.808009272
3	A5	Access to safe drinking water	0.000039	0.000101	0.723853	0.766036881
4	A21	Solidarity between residents	0.000044	0.000099	0.690655	0.762619763
5	A19	Feeling of identity in the neighborhood	0.000037	0.000121	0.766037	0.754127896
6	A43	The quality of residential environment	0.000044	0.000094	0.682605	0.744253374
7	A1	Existence of skylight and adequate lighting	0.000050	0.000084	0.624218	0.736845234
8	A3	Existence of good facilities and public baths in residential	0.000097	0.000051	0.345031	0.723852853
9	A4	Ease of access to facilities and urban services	0.000069	0.000060	0.464621	0.69065464
10	A23	Child safety	0.000076	0.000053	0.412304	0.689459219
11	A6	Benefit from health services	0.000105	0.000042	0.283835	0.682605363
12	A29	Weekly consumption of fruits and vegetables	0.000081	0.000062	0.431865	0.647613928
13	A35	The satisfaction of air quality and noise	0.000074	0.000056	0.428830	0.624620824
14	A7	Environmental quality	0.000094	0.000047	0.332601	0.624217816
15	A20	Social participation	0.000087	0.000049	0.359678	0.587430036
16	A2	Physica	0.000106	0.000038	0.264675	0.583011672
17	A28	Weekly consumption of protein	0.000085	0.000050	0.370709	0.58212672
18	A33	Use of sanitary methods for garbage collection and disposal of domestic sewage	0.000028	0.000142	0.833867	0.551501473
19	A30	Social	0.000037	0.000114	0.754128	0.549573455
20	A25	Ease of access to the police	0.000060	0.000085	0.587430	0.525203866
21	A42	Average family expenses	0.000034	0.000111	0.762620	0.516379682
22	A9	Satisfaction with public lighting	0.000099	0.000046	0.315959	0.464620845
23	A26	performance of firefighters	0.000046	0.000103	0.689459	0.45717933
24	A31	Familiarity with Computers and Internet	0.000029	0.000121	0.808009	0.434164156
25	A12	Satisfaction of traffic	0.000066	0.000073	0.525204	0.431865354
26	A13	Transportation	0.000072	0.000061	0.457179	0.428830388
27	A10	Time of travel	0.000099	0.000039	0.280504	0.412303683
28	A34	Passages status	0.000054	0.000075	0.582127	0.389464435
29	A38	Job satisfaction	0.000048	0.000088	0.647614	0.381842579
30	A32	Use of computer and internet in daily affairs	0.000061	0.000075	0.549573	0.374154899
31	A17	Social quality of education	0.000088	0.000067	0.434164	0.370709285

32	A15	Weekly consumption of fruits and vegetables	0.000099	0.000059	0.374155	0.359678414
33	A37	Access to financial references	0.000060	0.000074	0.551501	0.357529948
34	A39	Job security and hope for the future career	0.000080	0.000051	0.389464	0.356978589
35	A8	Access to public transport	0.000052	0.000086	0.624621	0.345030517
36	A14	Access to new and good quality schools	0.000094	0.000046	0.328987	0.332600666
37	A36	Aesthetic factors	0.000089	0.000049	0.357530	0.328987307
38	A22	Sexual equality	0.000083	0.000051	0.381843	0.31595852
39	A11	Satisfaction with access to public parking (facilities)	0.000087	0.000048	0.356979	0.283835117
40	A27	Administrative services and the accountability	0.000104	0.000038	0.268003	0.280503818
41	A40	Opportunity to find decent jobs	0.000106	0.000039	0.267223	0.26800346
42	A41	Satisfaction with income and existence of savings	0.000066	0.000070	0.516380	0.267223471
43	A16	Students' access to appropriate laboratory equipment	0.000036	0.000106	0.744253	0.264675387

5. Discussion

According to the extent of the issue, the study variables will be identified based on literature research, studies, history of the subject, repeated indicators in both objective and subjective aspects in various areas. Also, measuring the quality of life is based on the extracted indicators. Therefore, a total 8 objective and 38 subjective indicators were selected in physical, social, environmental, and economic dimensions, shown in table 6 (Amini, 2006).

Table 6 Subjective criteria of quality of life survey, conceptual model (derived from previous studies)

Dimension	Indicator	Researcher / Items	Jamshidi et al	Faraji Mollaei Daman bagh et al	Ghiasvand	Bandarabad & Ahmadinejad	Baskha and others	Baskha and others	Pourtaheri et al	Rezvani and Mansourian	Lotfi & Saberi	Mahdavi & others	Dadashpour & Roshani	Rezvani & others
Physical	The quality of residential environment	Existence of good facilities and public baths in residential areas	❋	❋				❋	❋			❋		
		Existence skylight and adequate lighting	❋	❋		❋		❋	❋			❋		
		Ease access to facilities and urban services	❋			❋				❋		❋		
		Access to safe drinking water	❋					❋	❋	❋			❋	
	Transportation	Access to public transport		❋		❋			❋	❋	❋	❋	❋	
		Satisfaction with access to public parking		❋		❋			❋			❋		

		(facilities)												
		Satisfaction with public lighting		❋		❋			❋	❋	❋		❋	
		Satisfaction of traffic		❋		❋			❋	❋	❋		❋	
		Time of travel		❋				❋						
Social	Social quality of education	Access to new and good quality schools	❋	❋		❋		❋	❋	❋		❋	❋	
		Students access to good and experienced teachers	❋	❋		❋		❋						
		Students access to appropriate laboratory equipment	❋	❋		❋		❋	❋					
	Quality of health and safety	Weekly consumption of protein	❋	❋				❋	❋					
		Weekly consumption of fruits and vegetables	❋	❋				❋	❋					
		Benefit from health services	❋	❋		❋	❋	❋	❋	❋	❋		❋	
		Benefit from healthy bath	❋				❋	❋	❋					
		Ease access to the police	❋	❋			❋	❋	❋	❋			❋	
		Safety	❋	❋			❋	❋	❋	❋			❋	
		Administrative services and the accountability and performance of firefighters		❋										
		Solidarity between residents	❋	❋		❋							❋	
		Lack of struggle among residents	❋	❋		❋							❋	
		Child safety		❋		❋						❋		
		Freedom of expression (The satisfaction of trust in people)					❋				❋		❋	
		Sexual equality					❋							
	Belonging to local	Social participation		❋	❋	❋	❋		❋		❋	❋	❋	
		The sense of belonging to		❋		❋					❋	❋		

		the city and neighborhood												
		Feeling of identity in the neighborhood		❋		❋						❋		
	ICT	Familiarity with Computers and Internet		❋					❋					
		Use of computer and internet in daily affairs		❋					❋					
Environmental	Environmental quality	Use of sanitary methods for garbage collection and disposal of domestic sewage	❋	❋	❋	❋	❋	❋	❋			❋	❋	
		Passages status	❋			❋								
		The satisfaction of air quality and noise				❋						❋		
		Aesthetic factors				❋						❋		
Economic	Occupation	Job satisfaction	❋	❋				❋	❋		❋			
		Job security and hope for the future career	❋	❋			❋	❋	❋		❋		❋	
		Opportunity to find decent jobs		❋					❋	❋			❋	
	Income	Satisfaction with income and existence of savings	❋	❋		❋	❋	❋	❋		❋		❋	
		Average family expenses		❋		❋				❋	❋			
		Access to financial references						❋						

6. Conclusion

The importance of qualified human resources and their perception of quality of life cannot be ignored in the assessment of urban development. The quality of urban neighborhoods has been evaluated on the bases of subjective and objective strategies, by using qualitative and quantitative data. Subjective evaluation of quality usually includes field studies, such as questionnaires and interviews, to understand the citizens' mental imagination. Objective evaluation usually uses quantitative indicators and is more social, as well as economic.

This study has addressed and contributed to the indicators of urban quality of life in the neighborhood and has important implications for both urban planners and policy makers. In this way, collecting, examining, classifying, evaluating, and putting criteria in specific categories are the basic steps to achieve a complete checklist to assess the quality of life. This method can measure satisfaction for quality of life in urban areas by ranking activities, plans and performance for weak indicators in order to directly improve the quality of life.

Naimeabad neighborhood in Yazd city is composed of a rural core and retains its rural features. However, based on the conducted survey, according to the residents of the neighborhood, the physical problems were ranked lower, and the most important problems in this neighborhood were related to economic indicators. As shown in Table 5, specifically the factors of students' access to appropriate laboratory equipment, satisfaction with income, savings, and opportunity to find decent jobs are the most important problems of the neighborhood. The social and cultural issues in this neighborhood are in a favorable condition, because of the cultural preservation and customs.

Collecting, reviewing, classifying, and evaluating the criteria's in specific categories are the main steps in assessing the quality of life. The method in this research can be used as a model for measuring the quality of life in various urban contexts. This increase in the number of examined samples can lead to the elaboration of the research and the ability to generalize the results in the area or the city. This research can also be done by increasing the sample size, localization, and development of quality assessment criteria according to the environment and conditions of each region, or by using other advanced statistical methods and multi-criteria analysis techniques.

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