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ID1370 | ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF NEIGHBORHOOD PUBLIC SPACES, A CASE STUDY OF MISURATA CITY, LIBYA

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ABSTRACT: The public space of the city neighbourhoods is one of the major indicators of the urban quality and the residents’ satisfaction (Carmona, 2010, Carr, 1992, and Gehl, 2013). In Libya, the government has adopted a redevelopment scheme of providing new homes to the local residents, to build thousands of new housing units around the country since 2005. This plan was aiming to offset the shortage in housing numbers due to the high growth of population and rapid urbanisation (Worldometers.info), 79% of the country population live in urban areas (Salhin, 2011). This high demand of providing houses to the citizens all over the country has made a significant change of the urban planning composition of the country, especially the residential areas. This paper focuses on two samples of a typical neighbourhoods in Misurata city as case studies. It investigates the role of public spaces of the traditional neighbourhoods (TN) and governmental neighbourhoods (GN). It compares the conditions of public spaces in both types of neighbourhoods in terms of physical and intangible qualities and examines the relationship between the residents in terms of social integration and community cohesion in both types of neighbourhoods. In addition, it attempts to find out whether this new strategy has affected the social relationship of the local community or not and finding out the extent of possible impact on the daily activities. Furthermore, the paper discusses the extent of interaction among the residents regardless of their age, gender and cultural background. This research is based on mixed methods approach including qualitative and quantitative methods through case studies of two neighbourhoods in Misurata City, Libya. 158 Questionnaires were distributed to an adequate sample of the neighbourhoods’ population. The in-depth interviews conducted that included three categories, a) residents b) decision makers c) professionals. Moreover, according to the possibility of limitations in the data collection stage, site observation was used to focus on the residents’ activities as a supporting tool. The results show that residents in TNs feel more attached to their community, socially satisfied and comfortable while this perception was lower in the GNs. Research also found out that the relationship between the residents of the neighbourhood plays an essential role to improve and promote the social satisfaction of the residents which therefore will contribute to high-quality communities. Hence, it assists the development of the urban quality in significant parts of the city.

1 INTRODUCTION

This research was based on the impact of the latest policy of Libyan government when it planned to construct a large number of housing units, not only in Misurata city but all around the country. This policy was set mainly to make a solution of the shortage in the housing units as well as to regulate the rapid urbanisation within a developed plan for a period of 20 years from 2005 to 2025. The construction of new housing units by the government aims to provide comprehensive projects of neighbourhoods in line with the increase of the population growth. The government claims that this new strategy aims to fill the shortage of houses within the shortest time which planned for a maximum of five years as a first stage of the whole mentioned plan from 2005 to 2025. Therefore, a phenomenon of establishing communities with mixed users has started to emerge newly in the country, which is different than traditional residential settings. The Traditional Neighbourhoods (TN) often includes families who live together as neighbours for a long period of time, all residents know each other very well and this form usually has strong community cohesion. However, the Governmental Neighbourhoods (GN) has indicated a less social cohesion due to the differences in the cultural background of their residents (Lee et al., 1994). Hence, this research attempts to assess the quality of both types of neighbourhoods GN and TN from a social perspective through deep qualitative discussion, in order to establish a specific framework of the future neighbourhood projects which may contribute to the urban development of the city, indeed, to the other cities of the country.

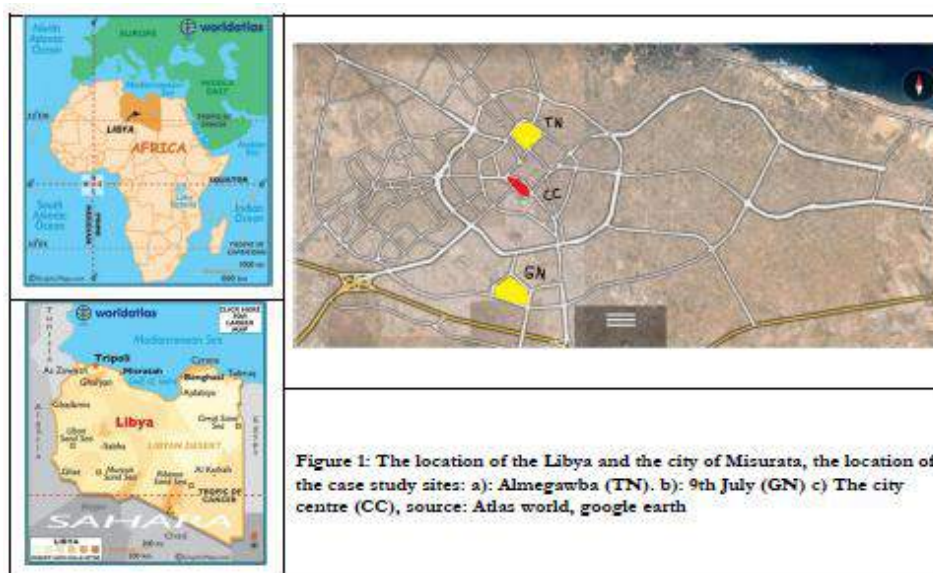
In this research, 'public space' is defined as a space being used and shared by all the people who live in the neighbourhoods of the city regardless of their age, gender, status and cultural backgrounds (Iveson, 2011). Examples of public spaces form in the neighbourhoods such as parks, squares, gardens, children playgrounds and green spaces (Madanipour, 2013). This type of public space plays a significant role in the urban development and quality of life (Das, 2008). This research investigates the social satisfaction of people using the public space of their community. Therefore, there should be an examination of the quality and effectiveness of the public space within the neighbourhoods by measuring the availability and provision of many elements such as playgrounds, facilities, and green areas in order to assess the residents' satisfaction (Kim and Kaplan, 2004). In addition to that, the research examines the social aspects and the level of the interaction between the residents (Cattell et al., 2008). Due to the moderate temperature and humidity conditions in this region during almost of the year, people usually use open public spaces in all seasons but not enclosed spaces as it is not popular in this country because of the climate conditions. Thus, this research focuses on the open public spaces of neighbourhoods in particular regarding the case study in Misurata city, Libya, with taking account of the advantages of the weather conditions in this region.

2 RESEARCH CONTEXT

According to the former mentioned policy of the Libyan government that planned to build a large number of houses within a short time, this action may create some negative affection such as social isolation, less interaction and community disorder (Behrad and Bahrami, 2015). Potentially the new residents of these new GNs do not know each other before moving in, because they likely come from different parts of the city and probably from another cities of the country, so they are not ready to have a strong interaction and social communication. And also, the new neighbourhoods contain hundreds of housing units, occupied by users from different backgrounds, which means that they have different habits, status, education levels and different mentality. This large number of residents meeting each other in a first time make the social interaction and involvement in social activities such as sharing the public spaces in their new neighbourhood a challenging task. Hence, it is important to know how the residents feel about themselves and about others, how they use the open spaces around their houses and what activities that link their interests, in order to provide opportunity for these residents to interact and participate effectively in the public spaces around them. Creating a sensible attractive spaces for the users encourages them to engage and interact with others which is the first achievement to enrich the community. Watson and Kessler (2013) states that there is an evidence shows that the design concept and green areas have fundamental impact on the users in these neighbourhoods in many aspects such as their health, comfort and feeling of safety and security (Jalaladdini and Oktay, 2012). Thus, the investigation should not excludes the physical characteristics such as, sidewalk/paths design, seats, green areas and playgrounds, in order to gain the insights of the community composition and to evaluate the impact of these elements on the local community.

3 METHODOLOGY AND CASE STUDIES

Initially, there are three advanced approaches to collect data of research: quantitative, qualitative and the mixed methods (Creswell, 2013). Nevertheless, these three methods may seem separated, but practically they are used in various approaches for different purposes depending on each discipline and the nature of the study, the elements of the research methods in which the result become more contributable (Beins, 2012). The mixed methods research is placed in the central position between the two other methods, because it integrates components from both quantitative and qualitative approaches.



The case study approach which usually is identified as a qualitative study design, 'e.g., quantitative experiments or qualitative case study (Creswell, 2013). It has been suggested from many scholars and professionals that the appropriate research approach in such a research which has a social and technical aspects is the mixed approaches method. This approach is a combined of quantitative and qualitative case study work (Merriam and Tisdell, 2015, Yin, 2013). The case study includes two sites, a) Site 1 named 'Almegawba' which is a traditional neighbourhood (TN) and b) Site 2 named '9th July' which is a governmental neighbourhood (GN) in the city of Misurata, Libya, as per figures (1, 2 & 3). All the quantitative data gathered from the questionnaires has been input to the statistics programme 'SPSS' to be able for analysis and Nvivo version 10 software has been used for the qualitative data gathered from the in-depth interviews. A mixed strategy used in terms of data collection including random and snowball policies to ensure the accuracy of the information and avoiding bias answers (Woods et al., 2015).



3.1 QUESTIONNAIRE

200 questionnaires were sent out to the residents of the two above sites, a total of 158 questionnaires were returned as following: Almegawba neighbourhood 81 participants and 9th July neighbourhood 77 participants. The questionnaires include a number of open-ended, closed and multi-choice questions.

Oppenheim (2000, p43) stated that "A sample's accuracy is more important than its size", a 2000 sample can give us more reliable results of a population of millions. In order to define the appropriate size of the survey sample, tables were used with a precision (e) of +/-10%, and from the population of (2000-3000), 80 was determined as an adequate sample size, with a confidence level of 95% (Israel, 1992) and (Kotrlik and Higgins, 2001).

3.2 SAMPLING STRATEGY

A sample selection was obtained using a snowball technique, "This involves asking people who have participated in a survey to nominate other people they believe would be willing to take part sampling continues until the required number of responses is obtained" (Kitchenham and Pfleeger, 2002 , p19). Participants joined to take part of the research through an invitation from other residents and so on. Data collection was stopped when the appropriate number of questionnaires (81 for the TN and 77 for the GN) has been reached and repeatable answers from the last few participants were noticed (Kotrlik and Higgins, 2001).

3.3 INTERVIEWS

In-depth interviews were conducted to provide a further understanding of the existing situation as well as to gain clearer features about the quality of the public spaces of the case studies. Moreover, firstly, to collect appropriate evidence that clarifies the research issue and contributes to solving the research matter. Secondly, to create a coherent framework to be used in the future policies. There were total of 16 interviews conducted during the field work as following: 4 Decision makers (governors), 4 Professionals (independent), 4 Residents of GN and 4 Residents of TN.

4 THE RESIDENTS' RELATIONSHIPS

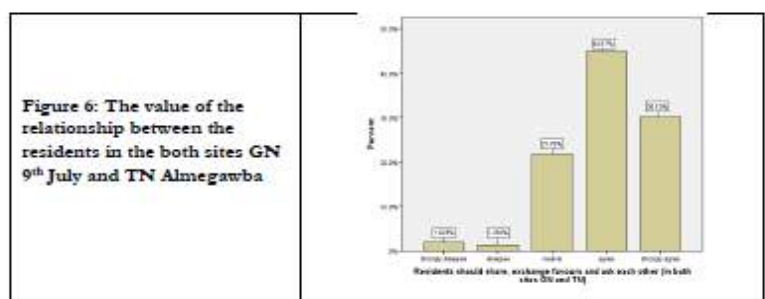
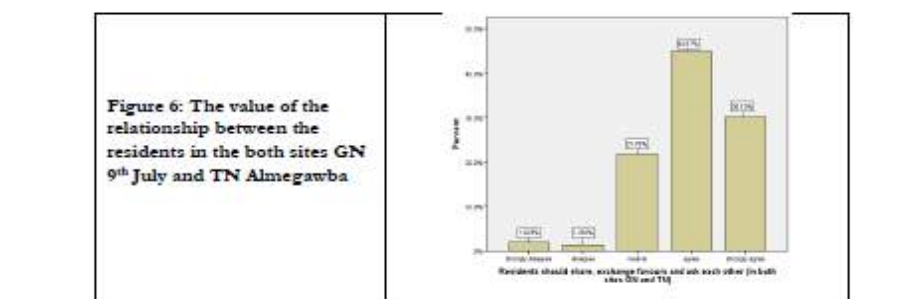
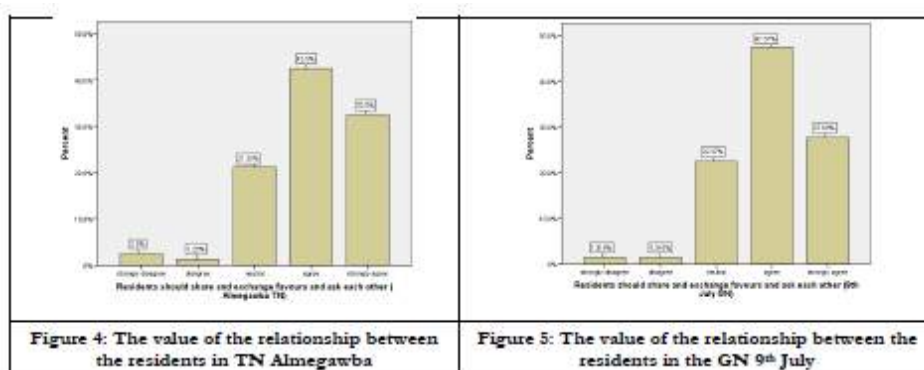
This paper focuses on the social side of residents' relationships in the public spaces of neighbourhoods. The residents' relationships within the residential areas and cities' neighbourhoods are one of the most fundamental issues that urban quality is facing in the country of the case studies (Salhin, 2011). In the following section, research attempts to illustrate the significant of these relationships and its impact on the urban development of the residential areas including the both types of common neighbourhoods of the local region the GN and TN.

5 THE SOCIAL INTERACTION BETWEEN THE RESIDENTS

Establishing an effective relationship between the neighbours depends on many factors. Creating the opportunity to meet and interact is one of the important steps. Public space is one of the places that provide this opportunity for the residents to get involved in several activities. Behrad and Bahrami (2015 , p89) clearly states that "People have an innate need to establish social relationships and therefore, they can provide opportunities so they can experience the social relationships". Social relationships in the local community of Libya are one of the most important elements that residents appreciate and hope to improve because it impacts on the social satisfaction and psychological comfort within the neighbourhood. This can be noticed from the Libyan history, there are more than forty famous traditional terms explains the importance of the neighbour-ship, for example "people should buy the neighbour before the house". And "be neighbour of the happy people you will be happy" (Mohamad, 2005 , p1) which highlights the crucial role of these community characteristics.

According to the research data, it has emerged that the relationship between the residents of the neighbourhood is one of the strongest characteristics in the local community within the two sites. Firstly, it can be seen in Figures 4, 5 and 6 that around 75% of the participants are either agree or strongly agree that residents should have a good relationship, support each other and exchange favours. This belief from the majority of the respondents reflects the perception of the residents toward the value of the social relationships. The results are similar in the two types of the neighbourhoods which indicate the strength of

this element and it is the same in the two types of neighbourhoods, however this result show the desire of the residents. The evaluation of the current situation show a lack of achieving this desire in the GNs due to the lack of social interaction and level of involvement in the public sphere. Therefore, this point can be considered as a permanent characteristic of the local community which is desired by all types of residents regardless to the change of the neighbourhood variables.

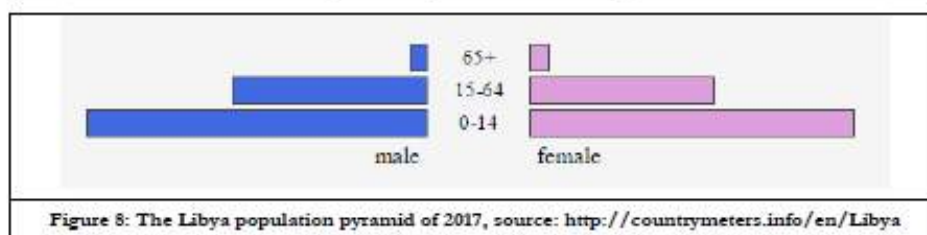


All the participants of the residents' interviews also provide similar information, interviews data shows an insistent desire from the majority of the respondents to have an active and positive relationship with their neighbours. Moreover, most of them pointed out that the public spaces of the neighbourhoods is the most appropriate place to practice their social activities. For instance, activities such as watching children in the playground, sitting as groups or families and walking in the public space increase the interaction and the communication between the residents. In the same way, Behrad and Bahrami (2015 , p92-93) clearly concluded the following statement from a similar research in Pavan Residential Complex of Sanandaj, Iran. "The results of this study indicate that public spaces having attributes such as socialization are an important supplement to the socialization of individuals. Furthermore, the socialization of public spaces promotes a spirit of solidarity, personal growth, development and improvement of appropriate behaviour patterns". This natural relationship of the residents creates a kind of familiarity among the residents, thus, it leads to a stronger relationship.

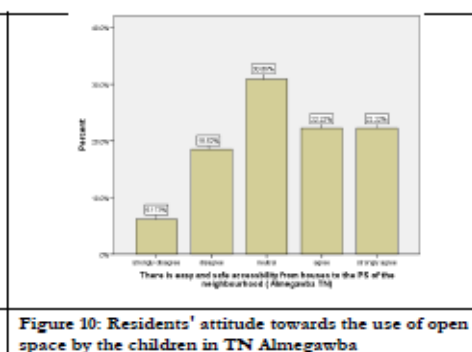
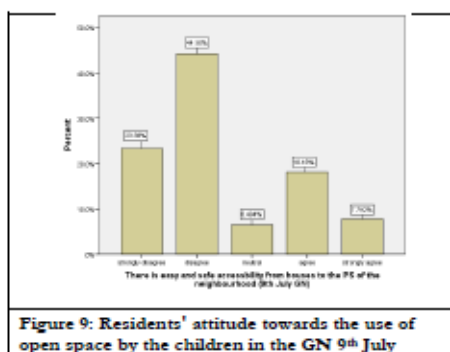
On the other hand, some of the participants from 9th July GN expressed their disappointment of the minimal opportunity of communication with other residents of the neighbourhood due to lack of quality public spaces in this regard. Residents have less chance to build up their relationship with other neighbours through interacting activities in public spaces. As a result, many of them have a strong relationship and social communication with the close neighbours which about four to six next families rather than the whole neighbourhood as the TNs. This has limited the range of communication to very important and large events only rather than integrating the whole neighbours together. According to the qualitative data from the in-depth interviews, the reason of this low level of relationship between the residents of the same neighbourhood is because of lacking of high quality public spaces that could encourage people to meet and talk to neighbours. Respondents clearly stated by many of the interviewees such as (participants, IB and FB) that "this weaknesses of the social relationship between some of the residents of the same neighbourhood is due to the lack of the public spaces". Public space enables the residents to meet outside of their houses in a more casual and flexible manner because this space belongs to everybody and their children can enjoy playing comfortably at the same time (Carpiano and Hystad, 2011).

6 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

In the local population of Libya, children represents a big percentage of the whole population of the country which is around 32.8% for the age from 0 -15 years as per Figures 7 and 8. This high percentage means that there should be significant consideration towards the needs of this category of the residents. In addition, the children and young residents aged between 5 up to 15 years particularly are stated in numerous research as the main beneficiaries of the open spaces either the public or the semi-public of the neighbourhoods (Woolley, 2006). These activities have a major impact on the people during their childhood which is one of the most important periods of our life (Islam et al., 2014). Being a period of time that almost everyone could remember, it has significant impact on the person's personality and their social skills, such as the way of communicating with others in the later age periods of life (Woolley, 2008). Therefore, understanding the social and health benefits of involving this category into the open spaces is crucial to the research. And also, finding out what kind of impact that may improve the quality of their life through the design of public spaces is important for the future success of new neighbourhood developments.



According to the research literature, there are many essential points have risen regarding the healthy environment of the children and the health benefits of applying the physical activities on open spaces. Gehl (2011, p21) highlights that "people in general inspired to others action, children see other children at play and get the urge to join in, or they get ideas for new games by watching other children or adults". One of the measurement tool in this research is discovering the ease of using the open spaces around/near the houses clusters. Almost 70% of the participants disagree to the statement "Children have easy access to the public space such as the play area, playground and open green space" which illustrate the weaknesses of the connection quality between the houses and the public spaces. Figures 9 and 10 show exactly the percentage of the respondents about this issue in both neighbourhoods.



Regarding the answers from the respondents, there is a lack of physical equipment on the site such as the play area, football pitches, facilities and green spaces. Residents complain that the ability to use the public spaces of this neighbourhood is limited because the government does not build playground and such facilities for children due to poor management system in Libya as stated by the decision-makers group in the interviews. The priority of the government is to provide houses for the people as an essential need, there is a lack of understanding the importance of the landscaping and providing facilities for the open public spaces in the neighbourhood. Therefore, the children have no better place to practice their activities and making new friends. They have to use the other surrounded space rather than designed public spaces for their outdoor activities, which may not be appropriate for the activities and also have serious concern regarding on health and safety issues, see Figure 11. It can be seen that children play along the main road which might cause a car accident.



Figure 11: Children play football outdoor, by researcher, location 9th July GN, 15/08/2015

With regard to the social aspect of the children activities, there is clear evidence from the research data that children's areas play a fundamental role not only in terms of children entertainment but also in strengthening the integration between the families of the community as (participants FI, MG and SM) who are residents of these neighbourhood stated that they have strong and positive social relationship with the neighbours whose children play together with their children. Hence, one of the key interactions among the residents is the place of the children in the public area of the community. That is when people usually get involved in the basic communication such as greeting, chatting, sitting and sharing some food or drink. This spontaneous and natural way for the neighbours to meet each other at the first time is high value, thus, these actions are likely to be developed by the time to a stronger relationship.



Figure 12: Shows the types of activities that children apply in daily bases activities, Photos by author 20/10/2016 9th July GN neighbourhood

Regarding the age groups in this research, results show that children often use public spaces as a place to discharge their energy and making friendship with other children during the play activities in their free time. Therefore, the successful open space is not only there to provide space but also to make it attractive to the

residents especially the children. Findings show that in terms of social impact, the children have a strong impact to support the social relationship for the adults through the opportunity that can gather all the categories of the neighbourhood in one place. This chance of enabling the neighbours to meet together is more likely to be developed in a deeper interaction and very close communication, as per Figure 12.

The other factor which relates directly to the activities of the children, especially in the open spaces, is safety. Participants pointed out in the interview data that the largest concern is letting their children play outside their houses due to issues of safety. As there is limited area of the appropriate place for the children activities which need to be secured and safe. For instance, the available places are not surrounded with fences which might be dangerous for children, especially in early ages. In addition, some of these areas are located near the roads which pointed out by some of the respondents, they are trying to provide indoor toys to fulfil the children desire to keep them engaged rather than outdoors. Although, residents are aware that playing outside and having physical activities is much more beneficial to their children in many aspects including the health advantages. This can show the importance of safety of the outdoor play facilities. To sum up, neighbourhoods of the city are facing a real challenge in terms of supporting children activities. In this sense, there should be significant care regarding this issue for the development of the open public space of these neighbourhood to be more convenient and appropriate to fulfil the children needs in terms of quality, safety and social aspects.

7 COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND SOCIAL VALUE

In terms of social interaction, the majority of the participants of both sites stated that neighbours often used to meet in the semi-public space near their houses to drink coffee, chat, and discuss the life's challenges and exchange ideas and advice. They believe that these social activities are very important for their quality of life therefore to their feeling of happiness. A similar study conducted by Zhang and Lu (2016 , p32, 34) in Beijing, China to compare the satisfaction of the residents in traditional neighbourhoods and redeveloped ones. One of the crucial findings of this study is that, "The residents in traditional neighbourhoods are generally more satisfied with their physical environment than the residents in redeveloped neighbourhoods". This outcome due to the importance of social and traditional activities as the study states, "In traditional neighbourhoods in Beijing, courtyards and hutongs provided semi-public spaces for neighbourhood interactions. Thus many daily activities, such as washing clothes, washing vegetables, and playing with children, took place in the courtyards and hutongs". This high level of social interaction has made the residents feel more integrated as one of the participants stated "Courtyards, to some extent, can be seen as our public living rooms". In this research also, one of the interviewees, (participant, L SH) who is a psychologist highlighted that based on a recent study and long experience about communities' interactions, that public space in the neighbourhoods plays a fundamental role to improve the quality of the residents' life by providing a direct communication through the daily activities which are happening between the houses such as gathering over a coffee, playing a traditional 'card games' and watching children play. In traditional neighbourhoods, respondents stated that the level of interaction between the residents is positive because they have known each other for a long period of time. This sense of familiarity enable them to get involved in the social and daily activities more easily which is relatively limited in the GNs, especially in the first few years.

One of the keys of having a good opportunity of human interaction is having the appropriate space to encourage them to be present which can help initiate the social interaction (Peters and de Haan, 2011). Rasidi et al. (2012, p465) clearly suggests that "A sense of interaction among urban residents provides an opportunity to get to know their neighbourhoods and as well as their friends in the area". In similar line, Abada et al. (2007 , p2013) emphasise the important of the place making and highlights the social negative impact when there is lack of interaction "... lack of integration may contribute to feelings of hopelessness, thus increasing the risk of depressive symptoms". A previous research illustrates that people have a better chance to interact in the favourable spaces for activating social interaction, although, newer communities recently may have less social interactions with strangers, because in some cases investors focus more on the physical elements and providing modern architecture rather than considering the cultural and social dimensions of these spaces (Mahdavi and Habib, 2016). Most of the people might feel more comfortable communicating within the groups that are belong to rather than to be open for the social interaction with others (Pinkster, 2016). Thus, it can be concluded that interactions with strangers are likely to be less common than those with known people either individuals or as groups (Rasidi et al., 2012). In this context, there is a sensible need to apply these characteristics in the new developed

neighbourhood to provide keep the social value and the level of social interaction in a good quality, therefore, to achieve a better successful neighbourhoods which have a social quality in addition to the physical and design qualities.

In fact, the social value of the community is directly linked to the open and public spaces as they are the main spaces regarding interaction (Gehl, 2011). These activities create a better chance for the residents to interact, therefore, this will strengthen the level of relationship between the residents by involving them in activities that can build a good level of communication (Gehl, 2013). Moreover, the social function of the public space can help to get residents more involved and promote the level of participation between the neighbours. Indeed, the poor quality of public spaces is also having significant impact on peoples' interactive behaviours (Weaver, 2016). Instead, they use the private spaces in their houses such as gardens and open area most of the time. Therefore, both lack of appropriate public spaces and low quality spaces have resulted in less interaction that have weakened the social value of the community.

From a social perspective many participants indicated in the interviews that when the revolution in Libya was started on Feb 2011 many social problems had happened in the GNs such as serious arguments and force some of the residents to leave the neighbourhoods. On the other hand, less problems were occurred in TNs because most of the neighbours know each other from long time and they care about each other, thus they had to take the same decision to the majority of their neighbours. This sense of unity and trust between the residents of one neighbourhood in a very difficult situation indicate the strength of their relationship which clearly is far less in the GNs where the residents are less interacted and don't know each other well. This case confirms that the relationship between the residents of the same neighbourhood was not enough to support the residents who come originally from other cities. Many residents had to move from a certain neighbourhood to another, as they acted differently to what their neighbours were expecting. Therefore, the residents who are not originally from this community prefer to return to their original area or city because the social links was very weak. While in TNs this situation did not happen because all the residents knew each other and they face all the problems and the reaction of the government during the revolution together and they help, share, cooperate and support each other.

To conclude, the most common forms of the social interactions between the residents in the public spaces of the neighbourhoods are meeting other residents, exchanging ideas and chatting (Iveson, 2011). These activities creates a high level of social integration which confirms the preference of the integrated communities.

Therefore, based on the research findings, public spaces of the neighbourhoods is the most effective area that impacts the level of interaction between the residents and therefore to the cohesion of the community.

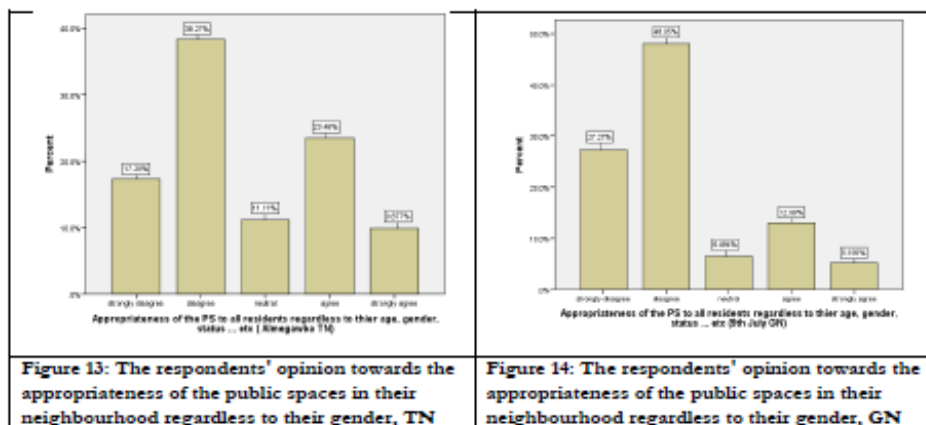
8 THE FEELING OF EQUITY AMONG THE RESIDENTS

The equity in this research means that every one of the neighbourhood has the same opportunity to practice their own activity regardless to their gender, age and other elements, because...?. Residents need the same chance of participation in the public space of the neighbourhood where they are supposed to enjoy their daily activities such as social, entertainment, play and sports activities. For instance, Musterd et al. (2016, p234) argues that "We expect that households prefer to move to areas in which residents are not very different from themselves". This expectation is based on a case study which shows clearly that inhabitants prefer to live in the community which they feel the sense of equity in their status in this case. In other cases, people might have different perception as they probably consider the equity of religion or the culture background is a priority to them. Therefore, understanding the features of the residents who are going to use this place is the key of providing the right solution in the appropriate form that meets their needs. The urban design of the neighbourhood should be based on a deep investigation of residents perception in order to fulfil their desires, thus to provide them equal opportunities that enable all the categories of the residents to get involved together and interact socially within the same neighbourhood.

It has been argued by many scholars that to create a preferable and successful public neighbourhood, there should be a balance provision of economic, environment and social dimensions including equity and justice (Saha and Paterson, 2008, Walker, 2015, Jacobson and Forsyth, 2008). Hence, the social aspects such as equity is one of the intangible elements that impact on the quality of the neighbourhood, this lead

to the key of its importance to be analysed in this research to find out a comprehensive understanding of its impact on the local community.

The Figures 13 and 14 highlight the attitude of the respondents of both sites towards the equity among the residents. The figures show the percentage of the respondents who agreed or disagreed to the following "This public space is appropriate to all the residents' age group, gender... etc." and it can be seen very clearly from the figures that more than 75% of the respondents in the GN 9th July disagree to this statement. In TN Almegawba also about 55% of the respondents disagree. It appears that in both neighbourhoods, especially that most of the participants in the GN, are not satisfied in terms of equality within their neighbourhoods. The results also show that many of the neighbourhood's residents are facing a lack of equivalency such as female, elderly and disabled people.



According to the survey findings, the total percentage of the respondents who were disagreed to the previous statement in both sites together is around 65%. Furthermore, in-depth interviews highlight that there are three main categories of the residents who are feeling lack of equity in using the public spaces of their neighbourhoods. a) The youth: this category who aged from 12 up to 20 years are facing a lack of amenities such as football pitches, tennis courts and other sports equipment, also a lack of prepared landscaped open space which can be used in many adequate activities for this specific age. b) The disabled and the elderly: disabled residents feeling isolated from other residents who are in their age due to the lack of the creation and infrastructure that can help their movements from place to the other. Elderly who also cannot find a place where to spend some time with the people of their age. C) Female residents: this category has expressed their feeling of injustices in many parts of the research methods. These three categories should be taken on account in any future development as they are representing almost 60% of the residents. This overall result points out that more efforts need to be applied to create more opportunity for the rest of the residents who could not find their appropriate place such as female spaces, quiet sitting area for elderly and special pathways, routes and slopes 'ramps' and for the disabled people.

9 CONCLUSION

To conclude, the research has pointed out that both physical and intangible elements have a major impact on the quality of the public spaces of the neighbourhoods. These elements in fact related to many factors, including the relationship between the residents, social interaction and cultural aspects. It has been noticed in this research that the relationship between the residents depends very much on the time of neighbourhood. The longer time for the neighbourhood is the stronger the relationship will be. As Nasar and Julian (1995 , p180) state that "Sense of community is a key psychological construct that the residents of urban neighbourhoods build over a period of time". Therefore, the length of residence thus becomes important in fostering a sense of community, in addition to neighbourhood association and mutual cooperation" (Chitrakar, 2016 . p215). This indicator illustrates why in the TNs the relationship of the residents often is much higher and stronger than it is in the GNs. The main feed for this relationships is the social communication such as greeting, sitting, chatting and sharing activities. In both sites, the result has discovered a reasonable range of social interaction between the residents but, yet need more improvement in order to make integrated community which is one of the aims of this research.

The children of the neighbourhood are one of the most active and vital of the residents categories, they have more energy and wide range of activities to be shared as Gehl (2013 , p158) importantly indicates that "Children's play has always been an integral part of city life". The research has emphasised that children play a fundamental role in improving the social interaction and enhancing the residents to get involved in more social activities. For instance, the playgrounds and sports activities usually bring the parents and adults together and encourage them to communicate in these places. Moreover, it can be seen from the results that the TNs are more integrated and have a higher community cohesion, this indicator has been explored due to the strong communication and social involvement between the residents of the TNs. On the other hand, similar elements have been observed only in a small groups in the GNs which is built up by the time through daily interaction than to a more social communication.

Finally, this research has revealed that there are a few categories of residents who have less opportunity to enjoy the outdoor spaces, these categories being the female, the disabled and the elderly. They are not provided equally with the local needs and the appropriate spaces to apply their social activities in the public or semi-public spaces of the neighbourhood. It has been widely emphasised that public spaces such neighbourhoods parks should serve all types of inhabitants as Rouhi et al. (2016 , p458) indicates that "The best parks are those that pay attention to the social, cultural, psychological needs of different age and sex groups and provide charming and appropriate atmosphere for them". The research has concluded that these categories need more attention in the future urban development and in the new projects in order to maximise the community and personal value of the public spaces for these particular users. The research may have several limitations such as covering only two sites to compare and measure the intangible and tangible elements, it could have be more comprehensive if covers more sites. Also, there might be another methods can be apply to investigate deeper and to gather more specific information regarding the local community characteristics. It can be suggested that more investigation is required in this topic especially in the social relationship and traditional elements which are relevant not only to the urban redevelopment, but also to the quality of the residents' life and their social satisfaction.

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