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RESEARCH PAPER

Journal of Biodiversity and Environmental Sciences (JBES)

ISSN: 2220-6663 (Print) 2222-3045 (Online)

Vol. 7, No. 5, p. 220-225, 2015

<http://www.innspub.net>

OPEN ACCESS

Evaluating family conflicts in Ardebil (Iran) with a comparative approach toward downtown and suburban areas

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Article published on November 30, 2015

Key words: Urbanization, Migration, Marginalization, Physical pathologies, Ardebil city, Mir-Ashraf neighborhood.

Abstract

Urbanization is recognized just by statistical urban growth and increase in population rate of cities; but, according to sociologist of Chicago school such as, Zimel, and Park urbanization is a new style of living. Along with the rapid development of urbanization changes in Ardebil that began since becoming the capital of the province, it led to the development of marginalization and settlement of non-urban population and the unemployed and the rural people of such areas in this city. Thus in this research we attempted to examine the incident of family conflict in Ardebil. The research method is descriptive-analytic and a survey and data collection has been done by documentary studies, field work, and data were obtained from relevant government agencies and by means of a questionnaire and an interview. Random sampling has been used and among the suburban areas of Ardebil, Mir-Ashraf neighborhood has been selected as the sample of the study and in order to estimate the sample size, Cochran questionnaire has been randomly distributed among the sample households. Also, to achieve the results of the objective, official statistics have been utilized. Excel software was used to draw the graphs and charts and the analysis of the data has been done using the SPSS software and for mapping ARG GIS was utilized.

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Introduction

Finding the relationship between different kinds of crime and seven social factors: These are as follows: Education, house rent, degree of population density, ethnicities in the cities, non-standard environmental factors, foreign born population parentage, and house ownership B, Ecological analysis of poverty environment which has nowadays gained more supporters. In this research statistical studies have been utilized as an index of unhealthy urban areas. For instance unhealthy houses, joblessness and poverty are studied in relation to the rate of increase in crimes. Researchers of (urban ecology) have certified this theory that in some urban districts mental disease, corruption, crime and felonies are more common than in other areas and these crime-generating centers are places for accumulation of criminal gangs, crime, prostitution and drug dealing (Kalantari, 2001). In general, the characteristics of urban system of Iran which has been fruitful on urban social injuries can be named as below: Increase in the number of big cities and their uncontrolled expansion. Formation of marginalize areas and development of different kinds of urban pathologies. Along with expansion of Ardebil into a central province, without providing the necessary infrastructure and management systems of urban and rural life, which has led to the influx of immigrants to this city and in proportion to the lack of facilities for new comers to the city in search for better income, and it has caused mushrooming of marginalization and in consequence various kinds of social ills such as family conflicts in the city of Ardebil.

In recent years three ecological theories on urban pathology have been proposed which have had more proponents than the other ones (Sheikhi, 2002):A, Finding the relationship between different kinds of crime and seven social factors: These are as follows: Education, house rent, degree of population density, ethnicities in the cities, non-standard environmental factors, foreign born population parentage, and house ownership B, Ecological analysis of poverty environment which has nowadays gained more

supporters. In this research statistical studies have been utilized as an index of unhealthy urban areas. For instance unhealthy houses, joblessness and poverty are studied in relation to the rate of increase in crimes (Calhoun, 1962).C, Classification of dwellings theory: According to this view, the crime rate of tenants is higher than that of home owners which reflects the socio-economic differences between the various classes in urban areas (Shokuyi, 1993). A number of the researchers have investigated factors while studying the spatial distribution: Physical characteristics of the neighborhood, the quality of access to residential houses and buildings, criminals crossing the streets and traversing certain districts of the city, the degree of toleration in dealing with criminals and the degree of residents' reactions to crime, practice of law and regulatory agencies (Clinard, 1996). The aim of this study is considering the development of urbanization and the increase in level of family harms in big cities, studying familial conflict in such cities has gained much significance. Thus we are trying to investigate this issue as regards the city of Ardebil, whose urbanization is rapidly growing.

Material and methods

Research Questions and Hypotheses

A. Are family conflicts in downtowns equal those of the marginalized ones?

B. What is the reason for the rise in the percentage of family conflicts in Ardebil?

Regarding the proposed questions, it is a general assumption that along with the growth of urbanization in Ardebil there has been uncontrolled immigration from the countryside to the city which has led to an ecological influx and this in turn has helped to increase family conflicts.

Research Method

The research method of descriptive-analytic and survey as a field study and inference from resources and data has been employed. Data collection is

conducted using documentary studies, field works, a questionnaire and an interview. In order to draw graphs and to analyze the data, Excel and SPSS software's are employed, respectively.

Geographical Location of Ardebil City

Ardebil is geographically located in the north-east of Azerbaijan in the northern latitude and longitude. Its distance from the border with the republic of Azerbaijan is about 20 kilometers. It has got the relative position of the circular-shaped plateau to the south-west of the Caspian Sea and it is located between the two mountains of Sablan and Baghroo and it has got an altitude of 1263 meters above the sea level. The city of Ardebil is surrounded from the north by the city of Garmi and from the east side by Talesh jungles and from the south by Khalkhal and from the west by the city of Meshkin-shahr.

Factors Forming Familial Conflicts from Geographical Dimension

In studies of social pathologies a series of factors are put together to set the ground for social pathologies. Each of these factors require extensive studies and putting them under one heading is going astray and moving in the wrong direction. Although such social factors themselves can involve lots of other factors, still it is better to challenge the issues separately.

Access to geographical conditions of the injuries

In outskirts there are more means of seduction for people than inside the cities. Criminals can hide themselves easier in these locations and get away from social monitoring. Density and overcrowdedness of these areas makes the number of criminals to grow in that proportion as well (Bones & Romez, 2003). In such areas, the only choice available to the youth whose materialistic needs are not satisfied in the family, on whom control and supervision do not take place is wondering about with friends and be attracted to the same-age gangs: groups whose members spend much of their life on the way of crime and they have seen and experienced all kinds of offence and criminal activities.

Result and discussion

About the effect of economic factors on social injuries many different researches have been conducted and the same numbers of contradictions and discrepancies have been seen between their findings. There are two kinds of approaches toward the hypothesis of effect of economic factors on social pathologies: One is that there is direct relationship between the pathology of the social and economic conditions, namely the better economic conditions and the more economic boom in a community, the greater increase in crime rate. But the other hypothesis denotes that the more aggravated the economic condition in a community and more flagrant the economic depression and poverty, the greater rise in social pathologies (Rahnamayi, 2007). It should be noted that the second hypothesis applies to the incidence of social pathology in marginal settlements. Because the majority of people in this thesis based on research on Mir-Ashraf marginal area express unlimited economic poverty and unemployment as the main reasons for social pathology. Lack of equitable distribution of wealth among all segments of society and acquisition of wealth and power in the hands of a certain class of society and consequently resistance against the structure of social relations and social class, result in social pathologies or in other words committing crime in these areas meaning that objecting to the unequal society and violating the laws that put the interests of the minority against those of the majority. And objection against the social injustice and class of the society in which day by day materialism and luxuriousness is promoted (Alizadeh, 2009).

Analysis of the Official Statistics of the Incidence of Family Conflict in Ardebil

In order to analyze different kinds of social pathologies in Ardebil, in addition to using the collected data from relevant organizations, to achieve more accurate results, the data from questionnaires distributed among the residents of Mir-Ashraf area were also utilized. Then, based on relevant data and

field studies, levels of family conflict in Ardebil city and suburban areas were analyzed.

According to the official statistics, there has been considerable growth in family conflict in the city of Ardebil from 2007 to 2011 (2009). Interestingly enough, the growth rate of family conflict in them arginalareas by 69% compared to the center has been very high. Also, according to the questionnaires filled in by residents, family conflict accounted fourth largest percentage of social pathology by 70%. The reasons for this can be attributed to existence of addiction and unemployment in these areas and also undesirable living conditions and abnormal circumstances inside and outside the residential houses and high psychological pressure on families. The slightest quarrel in the family leads to divorce, family conflict, and even results in severe fight among the children in the family. In general the reason for this pathology is the unfavorable socio-cultural and economic conditions of such areas. Conflict outbreak and lack of misunderstanding among family members is common in families in suburban areas. Sometimes these disputes can lead to serious conflicts in the families. Other types of severe family conflicts can be incompatibility of children and parents. Unfortunately, parents do not adapt themselves to the needs of their children in their own time.

Table 1. Family conflicts in Ardebil in the statistical period of 2007-2011 and changes compared to the year 1993.

Social pathologies	percentage
Family conflicts	70/8

Source: Welfare Center of Ardebil (social emergency)

Children also belong to their age and era not forty years earlier and this situation gets worse as the number of children and their age increase. Also, if these conflicts are not dealt with and nothing is done to settle them, irreparable damages will be inflicted upon the family ties. Since this class is consisted of very low-wage workers, they are forced to work long hours in order to earn enough money to eat and thus slowly and gradually their family ties fade over time and the family suffers its pathologies and it leads to severe family conflict in areas of marginal settlements (Table 1).

Statistical Analysis of the Questionnaire Regarding the Incidence of Rubbery in Suburban Areas of Ardebil

On the other hand, to supplement the existing official statistics, the survey was also conducted of the citizens living in marginal areas of Ardebil (Table 2). After analyzing the data of the questionnaires by SPSS software different social pathologies in Mir-Ashraf district were extracted and family conflict is proved as the most common social pathology, which according to the official data provided by the relevant offices enjoyed special coordination which indicated the significance of pathologies in these districts. Finally, it is noteworthy that according to official statistics of analyzed data, social pathologies in suburban areas of Ardebil and also analysis of questionnaire data of residents of Mir-Ashraf area, it seems that there is a considerable and significant overlap between official statistics and the surveys of the residents of Ardebil as regards family conflicts , which intensifies this fact that this kind of pathology in marginal neighborhoods, because of physical environment specific to that very district and the socio-economic factors that in some ways the government has been the cause of them, has converted to a growing social phenomenon.

Table 2. Poll Results residents in suburban area of Mir-Ashraf

Year	Year						Percentage Of occurrence	Percentage of change (1993 as compared with 2011)
	1993	2003	2008	2009	2010	2011		
Urban Areas								
Entire city	30	50	56	73	98	126	100	320
Downtown	5	15	19	23	39	35	31	600
Suburban	25	35	37	50	59	91	69	1274

Given the numbers and deplorable figures of social pathology, if economic and social planning is not enforced to reduce the rate of pathologies, the future of urban districts of Ardebil, especially marginalized communities will be seriously threatened. From the perspective of the school of urban ecology, increase in urban crimes in urban neighborhoods especially in marginal settlements has a direct relationship with rise in population density in urban neighborhoods. Thus, the social pathologies are affected by economic, social and cultural conditions of that geographical place. Some of the factors that as surrounding environment are effective upon social pathologies include the impact of the type of housing, the appearance and the value of housing. For instance, if there are not any acceptable minimum standards for housing and the area of housing is smaller than the number of inhabitants, perhaps there would be harmful and ominous consequences for the residents of that location. All these factors in marginal districts of Ardebil have somehow played their roles in the occurrence of social pathologies. Based on, the theoretical model of this view which looks for the origin of a crime from downtown to suburban areas. Population density in marginal settlements is more than other areas of the city. Because cultural poverty and lack of birth control in families living in suburban areas of the cities and their attention for human work force, leads to increase in the number of family members and in case of failure in their jobs, they will face problems with satisfying the financial needs of their family, and their children will have educational, behavioral, nutritional problems and they cannot afford to satisfy the needs of their children as they should. Thus, it seems that their children like themselves, will not be able to have a successful life in their future urban jobs both socially and individually in the community and because they perceive the society as culprits, their behavior takes the form of conflicts among them in line with holding to their own rights from others, on the other hand, more birth rates in these areas results in higher density of population and as a result lack of adequate space for spouses to socialize with their wives and to do their

husbandly duties leads to separation of husbands and wives from each other.

Literature review

Violence in the private zone or domestic violence includes all forms of violence imposed on women in the family environment. To define this kind of violence it can be said that: It is violence that takes place in a private environment and generally happens among individuals who are linked to each other because of intimacy, blood or legal relationship. Statistical analysis of domestic violence in Iran in general and in Tehran in particular, by consulting the research done in Tehran in 1383 under the title of “*examining domestic violence against women*” was conducted. This national initiative carried out through the joint effort of Ministry of Social Affairs and the Center for Women's Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of the Presidency of Government Reform was conducted by the team of doctor judge Tabatabai that started it in 1380 and ended in 1383. The current research has been done at the macro level in 28 provinces (provincial centers) with more than 14,000 respondents (12,596 married women and 2066 married men) and more than 1000 variables in 4 different questionnaires were studied. Although the final results have not been published and, also its volumes 4 of the final report are not accessible in libraries currently. The overall results of this national project have been published in 32 volumes 28 volumes of which address their part of the independent provincial centers, 3 volumes deal with reports of domestic violence from the perspective of women (victims) and on the remaining volume has been assigned to the report of domestic violence from the perspective of men (perpetrators of violence) at the national level.

Statistics provided by such investigations of violence against women, indicate a high rate of violence against women that this is the cause of overshadowing of serious violence against women and they are not taken deeply into consideration by the experts and policy makers. On the other hand, there

is a threat of jeopardizing the issue, that violence for which women themselves have been responsible by their own mistakes from the violence that men have unjustly initiated cannot be separated; it means that women are always regarded as a victim in this research.

Conclusion

Living in irregular homes decreases the sense of security in humans. Anxious and restless people get easily excited and become angry. Housings in city margins are very small in size and the number of household is more than four or five individuals. These factors cause that no one owns any personal space and privacy and nothing remains hidden from others, every individual perceives others as a disturbance, not everyone has the opportunity to dive into the thoughts and thinking of oneself and an open life, even sometimes the human soul in these large houses feels homesick and all these factors add to their feeling of anger. Living in such small houses in which no body has a private room especially for him/herself and almost all the people sleep in one or two rooms, can have no other effects apart from family conflicts. According to the data from the questionnaires 78/2 percent of the individuals recognize the factor of physical environment of the city margins, and 81/1 percent see population density in marginal areas as effective in creation of family conflicts.

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