

Residential Neighborhood and Quality of Life Assessment: An Analytical Study

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Abstract: This study focuses on the quality of life among the local population in the residential neighborhood and comes up with proposals that will improve the quality of social and economic life where it shows the satisfaction of the population about the quality of urban life in residential neighborhood in the new Baghdad area in the section of Al-Rusafa in Baghdad and the study relied on the descriptive method based on the method of social survey in sample where the study found that the quality of urban life of the concepts of the hour where the planners and academics who developed many indicators to assess the quality of life, whether within the housing unit or at the level of the residential neighborhood especially after the accumulations and dichotomies of housing units and problems resulting from residential and urban policies that care about the quantum at the expense of quality that meet the needs of the moment related mainly to the elimination of the housing crisis without paying attention to quality within these communities where it was found that most of the population is dissatisfied with their residential conditions in terms of community services as well as collecting waste and disposal and in order to raise the level of quality of life within the residential locality, the research sees the need to provide the necessary services for housing and take into account the increase in the population to achieve user satisfaction on services and the government must create jobs by investing in the public and private sectors to increase income and the possibility of increasing quality of life.

Key words: Quality of life, Urban Housing Neighborhood Services, Urban Population

Introduction

The residential neighborhood is defined as a harmonious society that achieves the cognitive identity of its inhabitants through the institutions of the meet, acquaintance and community development for all different community groups and segments (Omran,2015, p11) The idea of a residential neighborhood is based mainly on five principles which (Sudan ,2011, p1)

1. The school and the rest of the necessary services are located in the neighborhood center and must be open and known.
2. The population of the neighborhood is the number necessary to establish an elementary school.
3. Main streets do not penetrate the residential neighborhood but can border them.
4. The inner streets are designed in a closed style (cul-de-sac) or curved and give these methods different curves to stir up a sense of calm and safety as they help determine the speed of vehicles, which provides high environmental fittings.
5. To have the necessary services for the necessary needs of the population, including marketing, religious, social, and others, are stationed near the primary school and at the intersection of transportation routes on the neighborhood's outskirts.

On the intellectual level, the initial idea of the quality of life appeared in the historical discussions of Greek philosophers (Aristotle, Socrates, Plato) about the nature of quality of life and its specifications. Although the principle of quality of life indicators began to emerge through social indicators during the 1960s, its roots extend in economic measurement during the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries (Elhais,2016,p16).

With the expansion of the concept of welfare states in most western countries during the 1960s and the development of the new idea based on the emergence of economic growth determinants in the political agenda, Beyond material satisfaction and then a broader concept of the excellent life emerged. With the development of the use of this concept, there was controversy about the fact that there is more than just the material well-being of human beings(El-Baqly,2014,p3). Such thought has resulted in thinking in the post-industrial period and using economic abundance to satisfy the high ambitions created

by rapid progress in economic development and to use the output of economic growth and its impact on the quality of life. This concept was in harmony with the political and economic system prevailing in the industrialized countries of the West, whose goal was to produce goods that would achieve the best quality of life (El-Baqly ,2014,p3). In the early 1970s, another trend has presented itself to express dissatisfaction with the status quo and was presented as a term or a goal to achieve a way of life that is utterly different from that approved by the consumer society. The idea of the quality of life appeared as an opposition idea and not a complementary idea to the quantity posed by the economic system(Al-Ghandour,1999,p19).

In a general sense, quality can be defined as prosperous style (society, objective) and trim (individual, personal) and includes housing, education, and other housing and environmental conditions(Heshmat,2007,p37).

WHO defines "quality of life" as an individual's perception and perception of his or her situation in life in the context of the cultural systems and values. These preceptions terms of their goals, expectations, standards, and interests(Oleg,2018,p2) (a broad concept influenced by a person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, and social relationships).

The concept of urban quality of life has been presented according to UNESCO, as life is a comprehensive concept as understood by individuals, and it expands to include material satisfaction of basic needs, moral satisfaction that achieves the psychological compatibility of the individual through its realization, and therefore the quality of life has objective conditions and subjective components, and this concept has been linked from the beginning to the endeavor of industrial societies to meet the needs, aspirations, and aspirations of individuals(jcsr.bu.edu.eg)

The quality of life in a region is the integration and availability of the components of the main sectors of that region (social sector, urban sector, infrastructure, and services sector). These components provide the population with psychological comfort and safety and help the region to carry out its targeted functions, which are the natural environment, housing conditions, transportation, social care, health, education, and entertainment services(Salah El-Din,2016,p7).

Lawton put forward the concept of the environmental press to explain his idea of the quality of life as the individual's awareness of his quality of life is influenced by two circumstances:(Mubarak,,2012,p723).

- Spatial circumstance: - There is an impact on the environment surrounding the individual on his awareness of the quality of his life, and the edition of the environment in the spatial circumstance has two direct effects on the life of the individual, such as the impact on health, for example, and another indirectly, but it carries positive indicators such as the satisfaction of the individual to the environment in which he lives.

- Temporal circumstance: - The individual's awareness of the effect of the environmental edition on the quality of his life is more positive as he gets older as he is more in control of the conditions of his environment and therefore more positive on his sense of the quality of life.

Dimensions of quality of life in the urban environment

Some studies suggest that the dimensions of quality of life can address several aspects of them(Al-Zamel ,2020,p10):-

1. Environmental dimension: - By providing clean, pollution-free air to the population by adding afforestation elements and encouraging the use of multiple transport patterns such as walking and bicycles in addition to employing technology and artificial intelligence to promote the use of renewable energy.
2. The physical dimension: - Strengthening the concept of humanization of the residential neighborhood, making the urban environment human-friendly, and providing services and facilities that contribute to providing all the needs of the population.
3. After transport and transportation: - Providing multiple modes of transport such as walking, bicycle, and public transport, which enhances this is the integrated design of residential street elements.
4. Social dimension: - Providing services and facilities to all the components of the urban health environment must be available to all residents of the neighborhoods of the city and the importance of providing multiple housing options so that the residential area is suitable for different layers of economic society.

5. Psychological dimension: - Preserving the identity of the residential neighborhood and its historical value, which is an excellent reflection on the extent to which the residents feel that their neighborhood is distinguished by its own identity, in addition to creating an urban identity that distinguishes the neighborhood to enhance the residents' sense of the value of the neighborhood in which they live
6. Economic dimension: - Strengthening and stimulating local business activities owned by the neighborhood residents in addition to providing affordable housing suitable for the economic capacity of the population.
7. The administrative dimension of the city:- Identifying urban policies and controls to control urbanization and prevent abuses to preserve the urban environment and raise the quality of life and involve the community in decision-making and putting forward ideas.

Factors affecting the deterioration of quality of life

One of the most critical factors that lead to the deterioration of the quality of life within an urban community is (Gholam, 2015, p30)

1. High population growth that It is not allowed to provide the necessary services to the population to an adequate extent, such as education, health care, healthy food, and adequate housing for all residents.
2. Poor management of household and industrial waste and hospital waste, resulting in accumulation and degradation of the city's urban environment.
3. Air pollution due to gases emitted by vehicles and industrial units and lack of control and poor treatment of sewage.

These factors resulted in a deterioration in the quality of life and, therefore, the emergence of unplanned residential neighborhoods.

Quality of life indicators

It is a way to measure the vitality of society were to introduce to us separate information on partisan issues of the life of society (Youssef, 2009, p10) where decision-makers and planners benefit from them to develop alternatives and solutions to issues facing society. It can be used to measure these alternatives and objectives set for the solution, and in most cases, the link between these indicators and society is realistic (Effat, 2019, p77). Standard quality of life indicators usually includes wealth and employment and the built environment, health, education, recreation, leisure, crime rate, and social belonging. (Streimikiene, 2015, p140) It is divided into two types of indicators (Al-Kubaisi, 2016, p435)

1. Objective indicators: - a set of measurable indicators used in assessing the quality of life, i.e., quantitative indicators such as those that reflect the size and availability of services in a residential area.
2. Self-indicators: - Indicators used to measure the degree of population satisfaction (self-assessment of the individual) of the services in the city and reflect the efficiency of these services.

Study community

The research community included neighborhood number 709, which has a population of 35,000, located in the new Baghdad municipal district, representing 9% of Baghdad, where the neighborhood area is estimated at 91.8 hectares as described in Map 1.

Study sample

The research conducted a study aimed at obtaining qualitative and quantitative indicators to determine the impact of the quality of life in the residential neighborhood by designing a questionnaire form containing information that helps to reach the quality of life in the residential area where 5% of the housing units were approved where the random class sample was relied upon as the statistical community was divided into three layers according to the areas of the central housing units in the study area, which is

- Residents in base units with areas of 127-250 m²

- Residents in base units with areas of 251-400 m²
- Residents in base units with areas of 401-600 m²

The number of forms distributed was 102, and the results were as in Table 1

Table (1) Distribution of study area samples

Sequence	The area of the housing units	their number	5% the size of the sample
1	from (401-600) M ²	220 housing units	11
2	from (251-400) M ²	1602 housing units	80
3	from (127-250) M ²	210 housing units	11
Total		2032 housing units	102

SOURCE:-New Baghdad Municipal Department Data/Vacation Section

Data analysis

The descriptive approach was adopted to analyze the data obtained from the field survey and to know the quality of life in the residential neighborhood, reflecting the suitability of the housing unit for its residents and the appropriateness of the residential environment represented by the residential neighborhood.

The study found a range of results related to the quality of life in the residential locality

1- Housing as an indicator of the quality of life: - The level of housing and the availability of its services is one of the most critical objective indicators of the quality of life in the population, and one of the essential objective indicators of housing is the ownership of the dwelling where the study revealed that 51% of the sample inhabits housing units (owned by them) and 43% live in rent, and there are 6% living in dwellings belonging to state institutions as shown in Table 2.

Table (2) Ownership of the housing unit

	owned by them	rent	government rent	total
Housing unit ownership	50.98%	43.14%	5.88%	100%

2- The economic characteristics of the population as indicators of quality of life:- It was measured in the light of both income, employment, and employment as income is considered as a quantitative indicator of the quality of life but is the determinant of all other indicators as representing the natural resource expressing the economic level of the family, and it has been shown that the percentage (65%) Its income was average, which is approximately 500 to 1.5 million, and 19% had high incomes, which were above 1.5 million, and when asked about the adequacy of income, it was found that the most significant percentage was 71 percent. It is not enough because the expenses sometimes go part of it to rent and that 20% of the income was pretty sufficient and 10% of the income was sufficient. The results indicate that the percentage of residents considering their income is sufficient is 30%. This is a small percentage compared to the percentage of insufficient income where sufficient income is considered an assistant to improve the individual's quality of life and thus satisfy the various needs, whether primary or secondary, as shown in Table 3.

Table (3) Family Income and Adequacy

Household income	enough income
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Weak	16%	very enough	0%
Average	65%	fairly enough	9.8%
High	19%	sufficient	19.61%
		Insufficient	70.59%
Total	100%		100%

As for employment as a quantitative indicator of the quality of life, where work is an essential indicator of the quality of life as it determines the individual's income and standard of living, it is essential indicators about the economic conditions of the population. Survey results show that the percentage (1-2)Person of the working-age in the family has reached 28%, while the percentage (3-4)Person 57%, and (5-6)Person of workers were 15%, While the number of employees for the exact proportions of (1-2) person is 51% and (3-4) a person reached 37%, while the ratio of (5-6), who reached 12%. Such numbers influence the level of income of the family and the quality of life. The percentage of unemployed women was significant, as shown in Table 4.

Table (4) Number of individuals of working age and number of family workers

	(1.2) Person	(3-4) person	(5-6) person	total
Number of individuals of working age	28.43%	56.86%	14.71%	100%
Number of family workers	50.98%	37.25%	11.76%	100%

3- Level of satisfaction with services provided in terms of health, education, and entertainment: - It was found that 23% of the population is satisfied with educational services, 31% are dissatisfied, and 99% are dissatisfied with health services in the region, but regarding recreational services, 98% of the population are dissatisfied with them, and about sports clubs and stadiums, 40% of the population is dissatisfied with the service provided.

We find that the dissatisfaction rate is higher than the satisfaction rate, and this indicates the poor services provided by the government and as in Table 5

Table (5) Population satisfaction with services

	good	average	bad	total
Educational services available in study area	22.55%	46.08%	31.37%	100%
Health services available in study area	0	0.98%	99.02%	100%
regarding recreational services available in study area	0	1.96%	98.04%	100%
Clubs and sports stadiums available in study area	10.78%	49.02%	40.20%	100%

4- The level of satisfaction with municipal services and the condition of roads and pavements within the neighborhood: - It turns out that 90% are dissatisfied with the services provided by the municipal department, which is to raise waste, but for the roads, 12% are satisfied with the roads and 58% are dissatisfied, but regarding the state of the pavements, 50% of the population indicated that the pavements do not exist because of the overrun and as in Table 6.

Table (6) Status of roads and pavements in the residential neighborhood

The state of the roads		The state of the pavements	
Good	11.67%	tiled	6.86%
Average	30.39%	Non-paved	36.27%
Bad	57.84%	exist	6.86%

		Non-existent	50%
Total	100%		100%

We find that the percentage of dissatisfaction is higher than the satisfaction rate. It is an indication of the poor services provided by the municipal department in addition to the poor awareness among the population of maintaining the pavements and the cleanliness of the area

Conclusions

From what we have already concluded that

- 1- Half of the residents of the survey sample own housing, and the other half live in rent due to the high prices of land and housing units and the inability to buy, which forced some families to subdivide their housing units to house their children after marriage. In some cases, the subdivision is to invest the sale value to supplement the family income.
- 2- Most of the neighborhood residents complain about the weakness of income and its inadequacy to face the burdens of life and its pressures in light of the growing cost of living.
- 3- Most families in the study sample have unemployed due to a lack of jobs
- 4- Concerning the self-dimension (qualitative) of quality of life, where it became clear that most of the population of the sample is dissatisfied with the services provided by the government in terms of health, education, and entertainment as well as the services provided by the municipal department

Recommendations

1. The need for the population to be aware of the application of laws and instructions by the population in addition to following up with the relevant departments to apply the laws by the people and hold violators accountable
2. The need for the state to build housing complexes (concessional housing) for low-income people and also open the area of loans to housing with the lowest interest
3. Increasing employment opportunities by opening jobs through investment projects in the public and private sectors and thus improving household income are sufficient for the necessities of life.

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