



Survey of satisfaction with the residential environment in Arbil city

Mohammad Hasan Yazdani^{*1}, Hashem Shaker Abdullah Karwan ², Maryam Jami Odluo³

1. Professor of Geography and Urban Planning, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran

2. MSc of Science in Geography and Urban Planning, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran

3. PhD in Geography and Urban Planning, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, Ardabil, Iran

Received Date: 27 August 2024 Accepted Date: 18 November 2024

Abstract

Background and Objective: The quality of the residential environment is a dynamic, complex, and multidimensional concept that is formed from dimensions. In this regard, one of the appropriate ways to assess the quality of the residential environment is to measure the satisfaction of residents with that environment. Therefore, the purpose of the present study was to investigate the satisfaction of the residential environment in the city of Arbil for future planning.

Methodology: The research method is applied in terms of its purpose and descriptive-analytical in nature and method. The information required in this study was collected through field and documentary methods. The statistical population of the study is residents of different neighborhoods (wealthy, middle-class, and poor). SPSS software was used to analyze the data. In this regard, one-sample t-tests were used. Finally, the Friedman test was used to rank the indicators under study.

Results and Findings: Based on the one-sample t-test, residents' satisfaction with their residential environment in wealthy residential neighborhoods was (3.516), in middle-income neighborhoods it was (3.272), and in poor neighborhoods it was (2.196). Based on the Friedman test, the security index was ranked first and the lighting and ventilation index was ranked last. According to the results of the present study, the level of satisfaction is relative and varies in different urban areas and neighborhoods and has yielded different results. The results of the study showed that satisfaction in different neighborhoods of Arbil is (3.233) and is at an average level.

Key words: Satisfaction, residential environment satisfaction, residential environment, Arbil city.

* Corresponding Author Email: yazdani@uma.ac.ir

Cite this article: Yazdani, M. , Shaker Abdullah Karwan, H. and jami odluo, M. (2024). Survey of satisfaction with the residential environment in Arbil city. *Journal of Sustainable Urban & Regional Development Studies (JSURDS)*, 5(3), 352-363.

Extended Abstract

Introduction:

Housing quality is a relatively complex issue that encompasses social and economic concepts, and can be measured in quantitative and qualitative dimensions; however, housing quality is to some extent subject to local norms and conditions (Baer, 2014: 1; Strassmann, 1998). To evaluate housing performance, a suitable criterion that has been considered over the decades is the concept of satisfaction with the residential environment. Thus, researchers in the field of residential satisfaction examine the family's perceptions of their living environment, including the house, the neighborhood unit, and the neighborhood, by dividing the explanatory factors into user characteristics (whether cognitive or behavioral) and environmental characteristics; because the most influential level of satisfaction with the residential environment is related to the individuals' perception of the environment. In fact, measuring residential satisfaction clarifies the difference between the actual and desired situations of household housing, and the lack of fit between the actual and desired needs of the family's residence causes stress and dissatisfaction in the residential neighborhood. Thus, assessing satisfaction is a continuous need to determine the suitability of the residents' living environment with regard to It is the expectations, needs and goals of residents and reflects people's reactions to their living environment (Rezaei Khabooshan and Nemat Mehr, 1400:81). In the meantime, considering the rapid population growth in the city of Erbil and the provision of housing units for the increasing population, it is inevitable to examine the satisfaction of residents with the residential environment. In such a way that the neighborhoods of this city have not been studied in terms of the quality of the residential environment as they should be. Residents' assessments of their residential environments can be considered as one of the most important criteria for measuring the achievement of goals and evaluating the success of each project. Identifying factors affecting the level of residential satisfaction and dissatisfaction of residents can be effective in analyzing the current residential situation, making future decisions to improve the quality of the environment and preventing the repetition of some inappropriate measures in other places. Therefore, the present study aims to explain the level of satisfaction of residents with the residential environment in the studied neighborhoods, considering the indicators of the quality of the residential environment.

Methodology:

The present study is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-analytical in terms of research method. The data collection method was based on the nature of the study, using documentary and field surveys of the residents of the city under study. In the documentary study, relevant domestic and foreign sources were used to complete the theoretical chapters of the study. In the present study, a questionnaire was prepared in order to collect the required information, and in this regard, three areas with different socio-economic bases (rich, middle-class and poor areas) from six districts of the Erbil city municipality were questioned by simple random sampling. After that, to analyze the data, the completed questionnaires were first coded and then the coded data were entered into the SPSS software environment and tests related to the hypothesis (one-sample t-test and Friedman test) were used.

Results and Discussion:

In the discussion of satisfaction with all criteria in the Zangin Neshin region, the obtained average is higher than the average (3) (3.272). The results of the one-sample t-test show that there is no significant difference at the 95% level between the theoretical average (equal to 3) and the obtained averages (empirical average) for the following reasons: First, there is no relatively high mean difference. Second, the sig or significance value obtained for the one-

sample t-test is less than 0.05. Third, the obtained t-statistic value is greater than the standard t-statistic value (greater than 1.96). Finally, the total average of the criteria for satisfaction with the residential environment is equal to 0.000 and the average is higher than the average (theoretical average 3) and the mean difference is insignificant, so it can be said that there is no significant difference between the obtained average and the theoretical average. Finally, it can be said that the satisfaction criteria for the residential environment in the Zangin area are average.

Conclusion:

The present study investigated the satisfaction of residents with the residential environment in the city of Erbil. In this regard, first, the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the citizens of the neighborhoods of three different regions (rich, middle, and poor) were examined. The results of the inferential findings showed that the average overall satisfaction with the residential environment in the neighborhoods (rich, middle, and poor) was slightly lower than the average (3). Also, among the personal characteristics, age and education criteria had an effect on the satisfaction of individuals with the residential environment, and the variables of employment, income, cost, home ownership, distance from home to work, area of residential houses, and number of rooms had no effect on the satisfaction of individuals with their residential environment. The results of applying the Friedman model also showed that among the studied indicators (security, public facilities and services, physical, visibility, lighting and ventilation, hygiene, unpleasant odors, pollution, transportation, and neighborhood relations), the security index ranked first and the lighting and ventilation index ranked last. In a general conclusion, it can be said that this study shows significant inequalities in demographic and socio-economic characteristics in different areas of Erbil. Specifically, poor areas face problems such as poverty, gender inequalities, and limited access to education and job opportunities. In contrast, the wealthy and middle-class areas show better conditions in the economic and social field.

Declarations

- Funding:** There is no funding support for this study.
- Authors' Contributions:** All authors contributed equally to the conceptualization and writing of the article. The authors approved the manuscript's content and agreed on all aspects of the work.
- Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- Acknowledgments:** The authors extend their gratitude to all scientific consultants who provided invaluable insights during this research.

References

- Baer, W. C. 2014. Using Housing Quality to Track Change in the Standard of Living and Poverty for Seventeenth-Century London. *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 47(1), 1-18.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01615440.2013.800801>
- Chen, Li, Zhang, Wenzhong, Yang, Yizhao, Yu, Jianhui, .2013. Disparities in residential environment and satisfaction among urban residents in Dalian, China, *Journal of Habitat International*, 34 (2010) 100–108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2013.03.002>
- Huang, Z, Du, X .2015, “Assessment and determinants of residential satisfaction with public housing in Hangzhou”, *China, Habitat International*, 47 218-230.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2015.01.025>
- Lee, E. Park, N .2017. Housing Satisfaction and Quality of Life Among Temporary residents in the United States. *Housing and Society*, 37 (1). 43-67.
DOI: [10.1080/08882746.2010.11430580](https://doi.org/10.1080/08882746.2010.11430580)

- Lee, Y.J. 2008. Subjective quality of life measurement in Taipei, *Building and Environmental*, 43 (7). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2006.11.023>
- Mohit, M.A, 2009, Assessment of Residential Satisfaction with Low Cost Housing Provided by Selangor Zakat Board in Malasia, the 4th Australian Housing Researchers Conference, 5th7thAugost. Sydney, Australia.
- Pourmohammadi, M., R. (2014). *Housing Planning*. Twelfth Edition, Tehran: Samt Publications.
- Bahrampour, A. and Modiri, A. (2015). Study of Relationship between Residents Satisfaction from Living Environment and their Attachment Sense in Kowsar High-Rise Residential Complex. *Journal of Fine Arts: Architecture & Urban Planning*, 20(3), 85-94. doi: 10.22059/jfaup.2015.56880
- Habibi, D.; Marzban, M. (2017). Evaluation of the satisfaction level of residents of residential complexes. Study sample: Pansad Dastakh residential complex in Dogonbadan city (Gachsaran), *Research in Arts and Humanities*. 1. <https://ensani.ir/fa/article/382395>
- khalkhali, S. Z. and Ayvazian, S. (2020). Investigating the Influential Factors on the Residential Satisfaction of Residents; Case study: Elahieh Residential Complex (Asatid). *Armanshahr Architecture & Urban Development*, 13(32), 67-80. doi: 10.22034/aaud.2020.120055
- Dadashpour. E.; Roshani. P. (2013). Identifying factors affecting the quality of the residential environment in old neighborhoods (case study: Sanglaj neighborhood of Tehran), *Iranian Islamic Urban Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 3, No. 10, pp. 50-61. [20.1001.1.22286462.1400.11.3.12.4](https://doi.org/10.1001.1.22286462.1400.11.3.12.4)
- Zabihi, H.; Habib, F.; Rahbarimanesh, K. (2013). Investigating the relationship between satisfaction with residential complexes and the impact of residential complexes on human relations (case study of several residential complexes in Tehran), *City Identity Journal*. Volume 5, Issue 8, pp. 103-118. [20.1001.1.17359562.1390.5.8.10.4](https://doi.org/10.1001.1.17359562.1390.5.8.10.4)
- Rafiiian, M.; Asgari, A. (2010). Measuring the residential satisfaction of the residents of Navab neighborhood, *Human Geography Research*. No. 67, pp. 53-68. <https://ensani.ir/fa/article/49263>
- Rezaei Khaboushan, R. and Nemati Mehr, M. A. (2021). Spatial Planning to Improve the Quality of the Housing Environment based on an Assessment of Residents' Satisfaction; Case Study Hesa Mehr Housing, Pardis New Town. *Soffeh*, 31(3), 79-96. doi: 10.52547/sofeh.31.3.79
- Zanganeh, M.; Ghahremani, M.; Goodarzi Soroush, Kh. (2017). Measuring residents' satisfaction with the residential quality of Mehr housing in Hamadan city, *Haft Hesar Environmental Studies*. No. 22, Year 6, pp. 31-44. [20.1001.1.23225602.1396.6.22.5.4](https://doi.org/10.1001.1.23225602.1396.6.22.5.4)
- Sami, A.; Asadi, A. (2018). Evaluation of urban environment quality indicators in residential complexes in Bonab and individual factors affecting it, *New Perspectives in Human Geography*. Year 10, Issue 3 https://journals.iau.ir/article_543316.html
- Farajpour Baser, S. , Moosavi, M. and Akbari Namdar, S. (2021). Recognition of Factors Affecting the Body of Residential Spaces and Measuring the Level of Satisfaction of Residents of Residential Complexes with the Physical Quality of the Residential Environment (Case Study: Aseman Tabriz Residential Complex). *Geography and Territorial Spatial Arrangement*, 11(41), 149-220. doi: 10.22111/gaij.2021.6603
- Alipour, D.; Shahabian, P. (2019). Evaluation of factors affecting satisfaction with the environmental quality of residential neighborhoods (case study: New Pardis City), *Environmental Planning Quarterly*, No. 46, Volume 12, 21-40. [20.1001.1.2676783.1398.12.46.2.0](https://doi.org/10.1001.1.2676783.1398.12.46.2.0)

- Ghader-marzi H, Zarea-mamaghani B, Ziyari K. The Assessment of Quality of Annexed Villages Environment in Sanandaj, case: Hasanabad and Nisar. serd 2013; 2 (5) :39-56. URL: <http://serd.khu.ac.ir/article-1-1743-fa.html>
- Maleki, S; Ariankia, M; Baddest, B. (2018), Measuring and evaluating the factors affecting the satisfaction of residents of residential complexes with the quality of occupied housing (case study: District 2 of Gorgan Municipality), Zagros Perspective Quarterly. No. 38, Volume 10, 73-91. <https://sanad.iau.ir/Journal/zagros/Article/937847>
- Tucker, R., Abass, Z .2018 .Residential satisfaction in low-density Australian suburbs: The impact of social and physical context on neighborhood contentment. Journal of Environmental Psychology. 56: 36-45. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2018.02.005.
- Teck-Hong.T, 2012, Housing satisfaction in medium-and high-cost housing: The case of Greater Kuala Lumpur, Habitat International, Vol.36, No 1, pp 108-116. DOI:[10.1016/j.habitatint.2011.06.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2011.06.003)
- Warnock, V. C., & Warnock, F. E. .2008. Markets and housing finance. Journal of Housing Economics, 17, 3, 239 -251. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002795011423000103>