

## Research Paper

# "Third Place", A Place for Leisure Time and its Relationship with Different Social Setting in Tabriz, Iran

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Received: 5 September 2016, Revised: 5 August 2017, Accepted: 15 August 2017, Available online: 30 December 2017

### Abstract

To date, researchers from various disciplines have studied leisure time; most have focused on quality of leisure activity, psychological benefits of leisure, spiritual effect, thereby neglecting the effect of social classes on features and quality of the selected place. Third place is defined as a location outside of home or work that allows for social interaction and emotional support, regardless of levels and social classes, ethnic and racial differences. While it seems that the presence of such places in our society has a significant relationship with social classes; in the sense that different levels of social classes are more apt to form distinct number and types of third places. The current research tries to investigate the relationship between different social setting and people identification of third place, for spending leisure time. People attach identifications or meanings to these third places based on the type of needs met for the individual by these places.

**Keywords:** Leisure time, Third place, Social class, Tabriz city.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Study about leisure time and its experience circumstance has been the subject of many types of research in the past decades. In this regard, researchers were looking for discovering the impact of "Third Places" on people day-to-day interactions and their quality of life. Changes in the experience and use of time among the most people are the prevalent trend in today's life. One is the continuous and significant reduction of working hours and the increase of leisure time [1]. Leisure is a series of tasks that after the release of the family and social requirements of the job, the person with full satisfaction spends it to relax, for fun, to develop a non-profit training or voluntary social contributions. Simply put, leisure is an activity due to whose fulfilling nature; it is chosen in relative freedom [2]. Public space is a mix of the physical milieu with various activities whose purpose is to show the social life visible for all [3]. Urban centers around the world offer opportunities for leisure activities to people. They are a type of civic places that allow people to socialize and interact with each other in the public. As a matter of fact, urban spaces are places belonging to the public, are not limited to corporal and physical aspects, and gain significance in the presence of man and his activities. The function of such places in the

cities of Iran - which are remarkably different from those of Western countries in terms of social factors and current of life - depends on several factors of which the social classes is the most important. With a brief glance at different areas of the city, it can be said that extreme inequalities and disparities between social classes (economic, social and cultural inequalities) in different districts have a significant influence on the quality of life and the places defined for the people to spend their leisure times in.

Several authors have argued that the neighborhood infrastructure of a district has a major impact on residents 'quality of life [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. This paper is focused on exploring the role of social classes in architectural quality of the place, such as shops, cafe's, community centers and etc., which have been described as being "third places" after the home (first) and workplace (second). These places are important and valued venues for interaction. We investigate characteristics of place during leisure time by making use of multiple research about intercultural differences. The research relates to the level of socio-economic development, religious-cultural difference and the concept of leisure time. The article draws on data gleaned through questionnaires. Our empirical analyses are based on survey data from the SPSS software; the data set includes three neighbourhoods.

## 2. CONCEPTS, THEORIES, AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

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## 2.1. Third places as centers of community

Third places or urban public places are very suitable places for the citizens' participation. Thus, through interaction with each other in public places, the citizens develop their mental abilities and creativities and display them to the public. Oldenburg (1999) coined the term third places to denote "public places that host the regular, voluntary, informal, and happily anticipated gatherings of individuals beyond the realms of home and work" [9]. Third places are usually locally owned, independent, small-scale establishments that are operated by people who seem to know everyone in the neighborhood. In addition, third places are usually patronized by a group of regular customers who often transform them into their second homes [10]. Third places are as important as either of those for defining who we are and what we do. We allow our third places to define us today.

According to [11], Oldenburg suggests the following hallmarks of a true Third place:

- Free or inexpensive
- Food and drink, while not essential, are important
- Highly accessible: proximate for many (walking distance)
- Involve regulars – those who habitually congregate there
- Welcoming and comfortable
- Both new friends and old should be found there.

Fig. 1 represents those essential qualities integral to a third place, as defined by Oldenburg and Brissett [12].

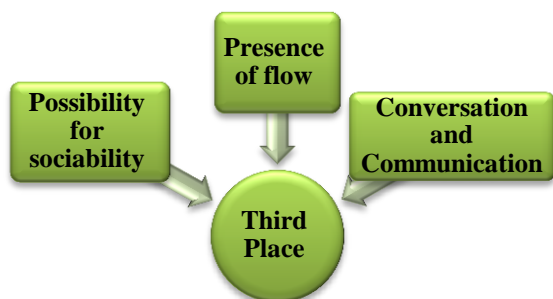


Fig. 1 Conceptual Model-Third Place (Based on [12])

For an individual, the third places offer stress relief from the everyday demands of both home and work. It provides the feeling of inclusiveness and belonging associated with participating in a group's social activities [7]. Leisure researchers have recently taken interest in examining claims that a third place offers individuals things (i.e. perspective, novelty) that home and work life simply cannot and found that third places foster social connections and novel entertainment [7,13,14,15,16,17].

The topic of leisure, and management and building facilities for spending leisure time is crucial to providing the best recreational contexts in order to nurture healthy and productive individuals. There is a strong need to develop urban public spaces in contemporary cities of Iran in accordance with their local culture. Due to the fact that definition of a Third place differs from one culture to another, in building such places, the cultural feature of Iran

should be taken into consideration. These places are for people to gather around one another and form friendly relationships. People give meaning to such places and, in return, such places give people an opportunity to express their attitudes and exchange ideas with one another [18]. Therefore, these places are more of an experience rather than being a mere product [19]. The perceived lack of any third place in a person's life may result in dissatisfaction "as a consequence of the increasing narrowness of people's spheres of involvement with others" [12].

Many theoreticians, whether directly or indirectly, have opined on the quality of urban public spaces as third places: Neutra has propounded the concept of "psycho place" as places for man's mental relaxation. Awareness about such places helps man to find out about the effect of the city on the formation of his character [20]. This perspective on place is supported by Zucker's (1970) concept of "psycho top"; by this concept he refers to social ties, and states that these ties turn the society into a "community" in its fullest sense; not a mere "crowd" of people; Later Hall (1990) studies the element of culture in urban public spaces and emphasizes the role of street furniture on people-oriented spaces; Appleyard considers the chief aim of urban planning to be the creation of a pleasant environment; environments that can define social relations and behaviors, and maintain a harmony with the rest of the urban spaces, so that they can induce a sense of comfort [21].

Many research conceptualized third place characteristics as a leisure opportunity that provides a way to play [16, 22], an activity that offers social support to citizens [9, 13, 15, 23, 24], and a way to establish social norms in the community [18, 25]. Thus, third place participation is a leisure opportunity that offers individual and communal benefits within urban settings [18, 26, 27, 28, 29]. We appreciate the concept of third places and believe that it has and will continue to influence scholars in the different field of leisure, but we believe that Oldenburg's (1999) notion of third places requires a critical revision and reconsideration. Many researchers, including Oldenburg himself, have expressed concerns that traditional third places like libraries [30, 31, 32], bookstores [33], and coffee shops [34, 35] face difficulties in fostering authentic third place environments and may be things of the past. Crick (2011) argued there are different types of third places that we must now consider. The studies support claims that third places can still thrive in contemporary society [9, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 36, 37]. For example, some have argued virtual places [13, 38, 39, 40] or spectacular, corporate establishments [41] can replace Oldenburg's original idea of great gathering places.

Hypothesis 1: There is a positive relationship between the concept of leisure and selected Third place.

## 2.2. Leisure time

### 2.2.1. Definition of Leisure time

Leisure has been defined as a quality of experience or as free time [42]. Leisure is a complex human need that is

fulfilled by the production and consumption of individually defined pleasant experiences [43]. The period between the 16th Century and the beginning of the 19th Century provided conditions which helped sports and leisure activities to emerge, but more importantly, promoted a framework that came to define and organize their practice [44]. Kelly argues that leisure "is processual with freedom as well as structure" [45]. While leisure is process rather than form, leisure experiences are characterized to a relatively high degree by all or most of the following dimensions: (1) it is relatively free, accompanied by a minimum of constraints; (2) satisfaction are primarily intrinsic; and (3) it is playful, in the sense of being self-contained, having to mean within the occurrence [45].

On the whole, there are three perspectives towards leisure:

First: leisure is mostly considered as the time in which one is free from the requirements of life (such as working and daily activities). During this period of time, one doesn't work for money and is after internal satisfaction [46].

Second: leisure is considered as an activity distinct from work which the person does freely in order to take a rest, entertain himself/herself, or add to his/her knowledge or skills, so as to obtain pleasure, satisfaction and general benefit for himself/herself.

Third: Leisure is considered to be an internal experience; a state of being that involves spiritual and mental freedom which is not an outcome of external factors or free time [47].

### 2.2.2. Dimension of leisure time

Leisure time is most closely linked to people's spiritual and cultural life and it has also a very close relationship with the spiritual and cultural life of the society because one can do what he likes for leisure and so can recover and expresses the final character of himself [48]. Leisure activities are so important because they refer to as the cultural mirror of society. So how to spend leisure time is too much extent representative the cultural characteristics of a community [49]. The experience of a leisure setting as a third place does not automatically imply that this setting will facilitate a third place experience for all who come [25]. Certain spaces may be inclusive toward a specific population, while at the same time be exclusive to another population, leisure spaces are no exception [25,50,51]. C.W. Johnson (2013) argued that leisure spaces can enforce mainstream discourses and ideals and that individuals who are marginalized because of their gender, race, sexual identity, or ability may not participate because they do not fit in. Leisure is the prime platform for addressing the fractured social nature of our communities because it provides the opportunity for citizens to choose, to be civically engaged or to participate in shared practice [52]. Hemingway (1988) argued that leisure provides the opportunity for one to better themselves and their community.

It is important to acknowledge that a number of

valuable approaches have been expressed in the field of leisure time. These include: Gehl [53] argued that the selective-entertaining activity of leisure is sensitive to quality and can only take place in a high-quality, inviting environment with a favorable atmosphere; Roger Trancik argued that designing urban recreational spaces which are in harmony with the cultural and historical identity of its population, by reflecting the cultural values of various groups of citizens, the most aptly provides consistency among the cultural and corporal context, needs, expectations, and collective memories of the people. It also makes people behave more aptly; therefore, not only will they choose such places to spend their leisure time in, but they'll also interact with the environment more easily, act more freely, and turn ordinary interactions to memorable events. This will help them to experience the pleasure which is essential to leisure times. Thus, experiencing such pleasurable feelings leads to a sense of belonging to this pleasant environment; Becker [54], it has been recognized widely that time may play an important role in consumer demand. One of the areas where this may be most significant empirically is in the valuation of natural resource amenities through their associated recreation demands.

Leisure time has been explored in a range of different (and sometimes overlapping) contexts including: Stress and boredom within the leisure time [1,55,56]; Social interactions in leisure time [25,57]; Individual and communal benefits [22,37]; Leisure time and social class [58,59]. Also, leisure settings, such as clubs, café's, and support groups involving workshops and social activities, have been examined as third places in the leisure literature [15,16,28,60].

Based on studies, due to the inadequacy and poor quality of leisure spaces, it is considered to be essential to build leisure spaces with high quality in the cities of Iran as the container for selective, social activities of leisure. In doing so, the local cultural features need to be given a high consideration. As a result, local residents will choose these facilities more frequently for their leisure activities. Moreover, if these spaces and facilities are constructed according to global standards, they can function as a tourist attraction.

It is worth noting that, experts emphasize the role of public spaces in creating social interactions and believe that more than any other factor, the presence of other people in space attracts people to it [49]. Therefore, the most basic step in designing spaces with a third-place approach is to develop an awareness of the content, namely the people, their recreational activities and behaviors, and the conceptual meanings in the minds of them.

Defensive architecture is a design method used to prevent the presence of specific populations in public spaces [61]. Of course, more important than activities and meanings is the consistency between the external form of the phenomenon, its content and the physical appearance of the activities and the social and cultural conceptions of leisure; so that the recreational spirit of the space can be discernable through visual observation.

Hypothesis 2: There is a positive relationship between people's spiritual and cultural life (social class) and the place they spend their leisure time in.

2.3. Definition of social classes

Piff et al. [62] define the social class as "an individual's rank vis-a-vis others in society in terms of wealth, occupational prestige, and education" and characterize upper-class individuals as having "abundant resources and elevated societal rank". It is defined in different ways by functionalists, Marxists, and Weberians,

but they nearly all agree that occupation is the best single indicator of a person's or household's class position and that classes are most basically aggregates of actors who occupy similar positions in their society's systems of economic production and distribution [63]. People are influenced by the norms and beliefs of their cultures and society. This influence can take a more personal and intimate level or a more general and widespread level that affects large numbers of people [64]. The research of social class has traditionally been the domain of economists, political scientists, and sociologists [65, 66, 67, 68] (Table 1).

Table 1 Different approach toward social classes (Authors)

Researcher	Approach toward social classes
Karl Marx	- Inspired by: Hegel
	- Came up with the idea of <b>base and superstructure</b> .
	- Recognizes the <b>economic</b> as the basis of class systems. (Rigby, 1998:176-178)
Max Weber	- Developed and improved Marx's view to a much larger extent.
	- Weber agreed with Marx's view that different classes exist.
	- Weber suggested that people's class positions are based not simply on whether they own the means of production or not but also based on their <b>market situation and market capacity</b> . (Giddens, 1972:40-42).
Erik Wright	- Wright modified Marx's model and added two more classes.
	- Wright developed a four-class model of social class based on Marx.
Dennis Gilbert,	- <b>Model:</b> Capitalists (owner of large businesses), the Petty bourgeoisie (small business owner), Manager, workers.
Joseph Kahl's	- Their model consists of six social classes.
	- <b>Model:</b> At the top is the capitalist class. In descending order are the upper middle class, the lower middle class, the working class, the working poor, and the underclass.

Based on studies, most experts believe that one of the main consequences of today's industrial city is the class differences between its districts and neighborhoods. We can consider physical environments as a crucial factor in man's interaction with others. Man as an organized system, dynamic and capable of learning, is an ability to modify his behavior in the face of environmental changes.

Recently, psychologists have begun adding to this field by examining the psychology of social class in day-to-day interactions [68,69]. Social interactions refer to particular forms of externalities, in which the actions of a reference group affect an individual's preferences. The reference group depends on the context and is typically an individual's family, neighbors, friends or peers [70]. Some researches indicate that lower class individuals are more prone to show a number of prosocial behaviors relative to higher class individuals [62, 71,72,73].

In recent times, the concern with the relationship between an area's physical characteristics and social interaction has taken on a more positive hue as practitioners and academics have sought ways to make neighborhoods better places to live in by creating social spaces that maximize social interaction between residents [8]. Indeed, third places functioned as unique public spaces for social interaction [7]. The researchers were encouraged to argue that shared leisure practices can offer a wide array of social benefits [28,52,57,60,74]. For

example, recent studies have shown that participating in a local community center can develop people's sense of citizenship [75]; spending time in public parks can help socially integrate people of different backgrounds [76], and that volunteering in urban gardening can facilitate attachment to place [77].

Hypothesis 3: There is a positive relationship between social classes and concept of third place.

Based on our three hypotheses, we developed a conceptual framework (Fig. 2).

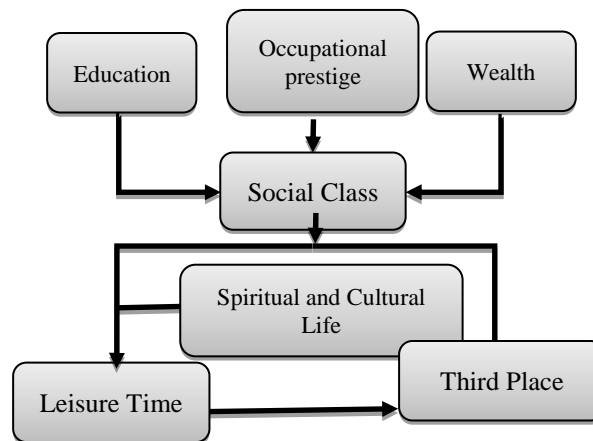


Fig. 2 Path analysis of the hypothesized model

### 3. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The goal of this research is to find the most important factors that are effective in choosing the places for spending leisure time in different social classes. We designed the questionnaire in reference to concepts from the literature. The questionnaire was divided into two main sections. Section one asks for people's opinions on leisure and the effect of different social classes on it. Another section contained socio-demographic (i.e., age, gender, income, educational level) and housing variables (e.g., categorical variables for living in cooperative housing, dwelling type, housing tenure, and a continuous variable for the length of residency) (Table 2).

**Table 2** Variable

Variable	
<b>Dependent</b>	People's opinions on leisure, Preferred places for leisure time, Quality of places for leisure time, Property of places for leisure time
<b>Independent</b>	Gender, Age, Education, Housing Variable, Income, Marital

In the first section of the questionnaire, four measures were collected:

- 1) Preferred places for leisure time (intra-regional or extra-regional),
- 2) Places which offer opportunities for casual conversations (an example of a type of place may be a restaurant or a park),
- 3) Important factors affecting people's choice of a particular place; which consists of 5 items, rated on 5-point scales (from 1- "1 strongly important factor" to 5- "5 Least important factor").
- 4) Important architectural properties affecting people's choices; which consists of 5 items, rated on 5-point scales (from 1- "1 strongly important factor" to 5- "5 Least important factor").

All of the participants were residents of the neighborhoods. They were approached in the street and

agreed to respond to the questionnaire. The collected samples were not representative of the city's population, but care was taken to ensure that they represented a wide spectrum of age and levels of education whenever possible. The criterion for sample selection was ease of access and whether the participant agreed to give an interview.

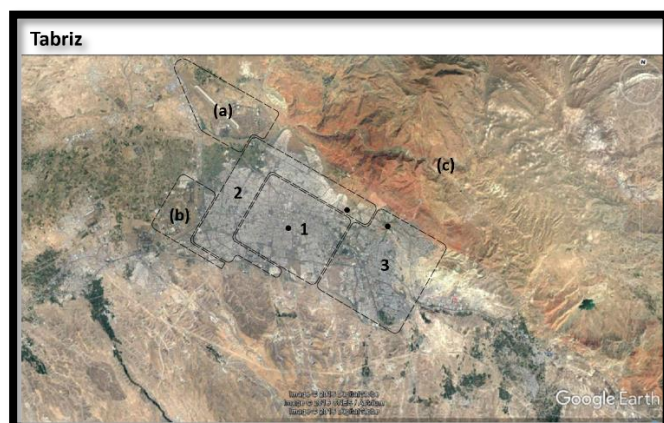
After performing data entry and screening in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), we conducted analyses using descriptive and inferential statistical methods. In the description of the data, descriptive statistic tables (frequency, percentage, mean) relating to each variable of the study is provided. In accordance with the objectives of the study, to analyze the data, Independent Sample T-Test and ANOVA test are carried out.

### 4. SELECTION OF CASE STUDY

Tabriz is a city in the northwest of Iran and the capital of East Azerbaijan province. Like other populated cities in developing world, Tabriz has experienced the phenomenon of rapid urban growth leading to the formation of informal and slum settlements in peripheral zones of the city [78] Generally, Tabriz city is divided into three clusters in terms of their population density, infrastructure, built-form patterns, and accessibility, including the availability of public transport and (Fig 3).

A field study was conducted in three neighborhoods (Magsudiyeh district, Yusef Abad district, Roshdiyeh district) in the different zone of the Tabriz city (Multi-stage sampling technique has been

applied) (Fig 3). All of them are in the different deciles and were selected to represent broad differences in the extent of diversity, connectivity and residential mobility according to relevant social indicators. Also, these neighborhoods differed in many dimensions, including the year of construction, architecture and demographic composition. The nature and quality of the neighborhood in these areas varies markedly.



- (a) Tabriz International Airport
- (b) West Tabriz Industrial Area
- (c) Eynali Mountain

- (1) Central area (Old Fabric)
- (2) Impoverished Areas (Slum, Informal housing and ...)
- (3) New Development Areas

**Fig. 3** Map of study area

Magsudiyeh is the oldest area of the three neighborhoods studied. This neighborhood is among the old and invaluable neighborhoods in the historical fabric of the city. Yusef Abad is a suburban settlement of many inhabitants. Most of the people residing in this district have come from other towns and villages of the province to find the job. This zone is the most considerable slum area in the city and is characterized by socio-economic, environmental and even political problems. Due to its history and the unique topographic condition, this zone is completely different with other slum zones of Iran and even Tabriz.

Roshdiyeh is a new residential and business area developed along the Eynali Mountain Chain. Rich economic

activity opportunity and high quality of building have attracted people from other parts of the city to this district.

### 5. SAMPLE SIZE

In this research, we informed people that the study was solely for academic purposes, that their participation was voluntary, and that they could withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Descriptive background parameters in this questionnaire are shown in the following table. From interviewees, 59.2% were woman and 40.8% man (Table 3).

Table 3 Descriptive background parameters of the questionnaire

	Gender (% female)	Age (%)					Education (%)					Housing Variable (% tenant)
		Less than 18	18-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	More than 55	No school	Primary school	High school	University	
<b>Magsudiyeh</b>	56.8	6.4	24.0	13.6	15.2	13.6	27.2	0	7.2	22.4	70.4	17.6
<b>Yusef Abad</b>	53.6	4.0	20.0	26.4	20.8	10.4	18.4	2.4	33.6	41.6	22.4	46.4
<b>Roshdiyeh</b>	67.2	4.0	27.2	26.4	11.2	13.6	17.6	1.6	8.0	8.8	81.6	18.4

### 6. RESULTS

In order to answer our research questions, series of analyses were performed. The purpose of this study was to understand: correlations exist between Third place use and Social class?

The Indicator Correlation Matrix is one of the most achievements of this study in that highlighting the correlation based on different variables such as gender, marital status, and employment status of participants can lead to a suitable understanding of the distribution of variables and differences among the variable. Independent T-Test and One-Way ANOVA were employed to reach a suitable understanding of these differences.

As Table 3 shows, a large portion of the residents in three districts choose intra-regional places for spending their leisure times (Table 4).

Table 4 Place for spending leisure time

	Percent (%)		
	Magsudiyeh	Yusef Abad	Roshdiyeh
<b>Valid</b>			
<b>intra-regional</b>	42.0	62.0	56.0
<b>extra-regional</b>	34.0	25.0	32.0
<b>both of them</b>	24.0	11.0	12.0
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

Additionally, Pearson Test is carried out to find the correlation between the dependent variable of chosen place and the independent variables (gender, age, occupation and ...). The correlation indices of the Yusef Abad district,

indicate a strong, direct, and a significant relationship between this index and variable income ( $R=0.571$ , Sig (2-tailed)  $=0.001$ ). However, in the two districts of Roshdiyeh and Maghsudiyeh, no significant correlation is observed between the variables.

One of the goals of the present study has been to identify the places and activities that people prefer for spending leisure time. According to the survey carried out, it can be said that in all these three areas that are studied, people prefer recreational activities for their leisure times. Park spaces are a top priority for most people as third places (a space for dialogue, relaxation and so on). It should be noted that the spatial features and physical qualities (such as facilities provided) in parks vary in different regions. Roshdiyeh and Magsudiyeh districts, people also choose public places such as coffee shops, pedestrian ways, and restaurants as Third places. According to field observations, it can be said that although in Yusef Abad neighborhood, third places are only limited to mosques, local parks, and in some cases to local coffee houses, since the residents of these areas are greatly interested in public discussions, anywhere in the neighborhood (such as crossings, in front of shops such as a grocery store, the doorways of houses etc.) can function as a third place for them. While this doesn't by no means apply in the case of the other two neighborhoods under observation.

Moreover, as it is shown in Table 4, people in the three districts under investigation prioritize their reasons for choosing a particular place differently (Table 5).

Table 5 Results (%)

		Percent				
		Clientele demographics	Location	Cost Physical features of place	Products, services offered	Feeling a sense of community
Magsudiyeh	First Priority	29.0	28.0	0.0	12.0	<b>31.0</b>
	Second Priority	<b>30.0</b>	20.0	0.0	22.0	27.0
	Third Priority	20.0	<b>40.0</b>	8.0	8.0	24.0
	Fourth Priority	9.0	8.0	32.0	<b>42.0</b>	10.0
	Fifth Priority	12.0	4.0	<b>60.0</b>	16.0	8.0
Yusef Abad	First Priority	3.9	15.7	23.5	<b>33.8</b>	23.5
	Second Priority	19.6	<b>31.4</b>	13.7	19.6	15.7
	Third Priority	19.6	15.7	27.5	7.8	<b>29.4</b>
	Fourth Priority	17.6	15.7	<b>23.5</b>	23.0	19.6
	Fifth Priority	<b>39.2</b>	21.6	11.8	15.7	11.8
Roshdiyeh	First Priority	16.0	14.0	10.0	22.0	<b>40.0</b>
	Second Priority	12.0	6.0	22.0	<b>36.0</b>	24.0
	Third Priority	24.0	<b>36.0</b>	4.0	14.0	22.0
	Fourth Priority	16.0	<b>40.0</b>	14.0	20.0	8.0
	Fifth Priority	32.0	4.0	<b>50.0</b>	8.0	6.0

Furthermore, the results of analysis of the correlation between the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) and independent variables (gender, age, occupation, etc.), using Pearson correlation coefficient, indicates that:

✓ In Magsudiyeh District, a correlation is observed between all of the independent variables (except for gender) with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area),

✓ In Roshdiyeh District, no correlation is observed between any of the independent variables with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area),

✓ In Yusef Abad District, a correlation is observed between the independent variable of occupation with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) (Table 6).

Table 6 Correlation

		Gender	Age	Income	Employment
Feeling a sense of community Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	Magsudiyeh	0.143	*-0.634	*-0.459	*0.516
	Roshdiyeh	0.323	0.001	0.001	0.001
	Yusef Abad	0.194	-0.139	0.05	0.253
		0.178	0.337	0.732	0.076
		0.203	0.176	0.002	*-0.356
		0.153	0.216	0.991	0.010

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

As it is shown in Table 7, residents in the three districts under investigation consider different structural and

architectural features while choosing a place for spending their leisure times.

Table 7 Results (%)

First	Place according to different age groups	Percent				
		Having responsive architecture	Create the sense of belonging and calm	Sense of security	Having defining architecture environment	
Magsudiyeh	Priority	12.0	4.0	<b>44.0</b>	36.0	4.0
	Second Priority	12.0	18.0	20.0	<b>32.0</b>	18.0
	Third Priority	16.0	<b>24.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>	12.0
	Fourth Priority	20.0	<b>30.0</b>	12.0	8.0	<b>30.0</b>
	Fifth Priority	<b>40.0</b>	24.0	0.0	0.0	36.0
Yusef Abad	First Priority	29.4	0.0	<b>43.1</b>	27.5	0.0
	Second Priority	7.8	19.6	29.4	<b>35.3</b>	7.8
	Third Priority	<b>39.2</b>	3.9	23.5	17.6	15.7
	Fourth Priority	15.7	<b>52.9</b>	3.9	19.6	7.8
	Fifth Priority	7.8	23.5	0.0	0.0	<b>68.6</b>
Roshdiyeh	First Priority	12.0	6.0	40.0	<b>41.0</b>	2.0
	Second Priority	22.0	18.0	22.0	<b>33.0</b>	4.0
	Third Priority	22.0	16.0	<b>32.0</b>	14.0	16.0
	Fourth Priority	22.0	<b>46.0</b>	6.0	12.0	14.0
	Fifth Priority	22.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	<b>64.0</b>

The results of analysis of the correlation between the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) and independent variables (gender, age, occupation, etc.), using Pearson correlation coefficient, indicates that:

✓ In Maghsudiyeh District, a correlation is observed between the independent variables of gender and

occupation with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area),  
 ✓ In Roshdiyeh and Yusef Abad Districts, no correlation is observed between any of the independent variables with the dependent variable (the first priority of the majority of people in the area) (Table 8).

Table 8 Correlation

		Gender	Age	Income	Employment
<b>Create the sense of belonging and calm</b> <b>Pearson Correlation</b> <b>Sig. (2-tailed)</b>	<b>Magsudiyeh</b>	*0.557	-0.277	-0.124	*0.453
		0.001	0.052	0.390	0.001
	<b>Roshdiyeh</b>	0.046	0.201	0.117	0.173
		0.748	0.157	0.412	0.224
	<b>Yusef Abad</b>	-0.277	-0.126	0.178	0.048
		0.051	0.382	0.216	0.741

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

These results and field observations supported proposed Hypotheses: Hypothesis 2, thereby indicating that social classes affect the quality of leisure time

significantly. Also, results only partly supported Hypotheses 1 and 3, thus showing that notion of third place significantly affected by social class (Fig. 4).

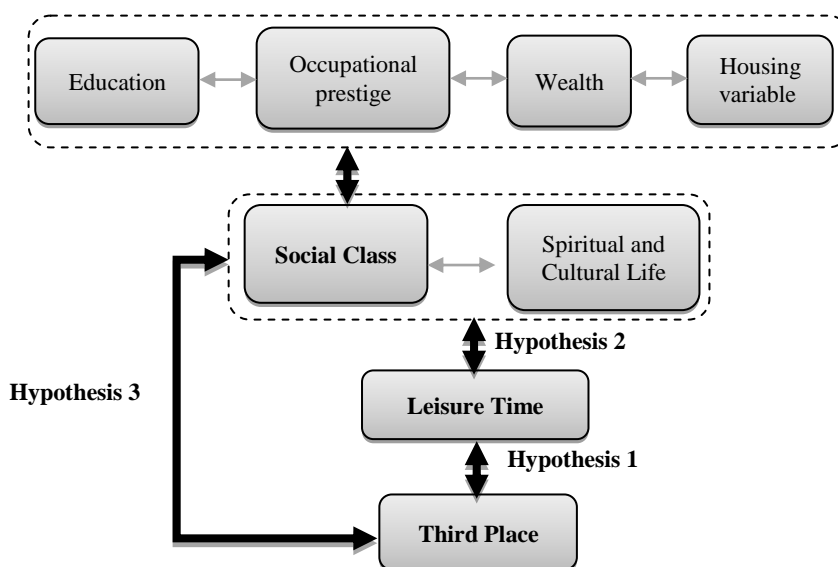


Fig. 4 Path relationship of the Hypothesis (Based on results)

## 7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In today's cities, urban life and social life, in various spheres, don't have homogeneous and uniform characteristics. Economic and social indicators are among the factors that distinguish urban and social classes and create them. Each class level has specific dimensions and characteristics peculiar to it; these characteristics determine the ways third places are chosen and their qualities, and they also affect social life and environmental qualities.

This study aims to determine the relationship between effective factors in the selection of places for spending leisure time (Third place) and different social classes. According to the findings, from among the three case studies, the culture of the residents, their varied viewpoints, and also, the amount of income they earn are

the most pivotal factors in the selection of different third places.

The results of Pearson correlation test confirm the significant, positive correlation between the third place (intra-regional or extra-regional) and variable income in Yusef Abad district. It means that Due to financial debility, the majority of the residents in this area prefer intra-regional places (Sig (2-tailed) = 0.001); Most of these intra-regional places (such as parks) are of low quality in terms of usability and environmental qualities. Of course, according to field observations, it can be said that although in Yusef Abad neighborhood, third places are only limited to mosques, local parks, and in some cases to local coffee houses, since the residents of these areas are greatly interested in public discussions, anywhere in the neighborhood (such as crossings, in front of shops such as a grocery store, the doorways of houses etc.) can function



as a third place for them. In conclusion, it is crystal-clear that disparities in the quality of life cause third places with different features and qualities to get formed. In the sense that different levels of social classes are more apt to form distinct number and types of third places. It is suggested that by defining third places (as well as the optimization of existing spaces), tailored to each region, we can reduce social tensions, promote positive social features, and thus, improve social life conditions in districts of the city.

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#### HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

A. Samadi Ahari., D. Sattarzadeh., (2017). "Third place", a place for leisure time and its relationship with different social setting in Tabriz, Iran. *Int. J. Architect. Eng. Urban Plan*, 27(2): 95-103, December 2017.

URL: <http://ijaup.iust.ac.ir/article-1-207-en.html>

