

# Urban Public Spaces and Women's Safety: A Participatory Approach of Saqqez Streets, Iran

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**ABSTRACT:** In recent years many transformations have occurred in Iranian society and women and girls still have a lot of worries about coming to urban public spaces. Also, due to some ambiguities in defining the domain of public space in traditional Islamic cities and gaps in the knowledge related to the Kurdish cities, the main problem of this paper is how we can define a participatory approach to improvement of women's safety in the urban public spaces of Saqqez city. This paper will examine the women's participation role in the urban spaces safety by Participatory Urban Appraisal (PUA) model in south and north Imam Avenue, Republic Street and Quds Avenue of Saqqez city. Applied methodology is based on librarian, documents and field studies. Statistical society of current research was including 200 citizens, experts and urban officials. In order to, sampling method is simple random sampling. Morgan's sample size estimation table was used to determine size of samples. Finally, Data's were analyzed through SPSS and Excel software's. It is presented some solve ways in the framework of SWOT strategy. Results showed that the index of city street furniture in Republic street with providing more favorable conditions of women's satisfaction with 29% of the Quds street, south Imam Khomeini street with 18% and 12% were in north Imam Khomeini street. Other indicators also had a similar situation. Finally, presented some solve ways using SWOT model.

**Keywords:** SWOT Strategy, PUA Model, Participatory Approach, Public Space

## INTRODUCTION

Saqqez is the regional city of the Kurdistan region, the Northwest province of Iran. It has a 987 km common border with Iraq country. The Western border of Iran was specified by the border commission according to the Goldsmith Plan in September 1871 (Taheri, 1977). This borderline has separated parts of Kurdistan from Iran (Sykes, 1984) and today a majority of the Kurdish population (about 25 million people) live within Turkey (a group of Kurdish people also lives in Iran, Iraq and Syria Countries (Kurdish Encyclopedia, 1975). Kurdistan province within Iran has the lowest level of development among the provinces and is a deprived area. However, the data show that it is more developed than the neighboring Kurdish parts in other countries which have Kurdish peoples. There are numerous Iranian cities in the border area and Saqqez is the most important regional settlement. In spite of efforts made after the revolution to support underdeveloped areas, this region still remains undeveloped in comparison with other provinces of Iran. This paper deals with one of the more important changes to occur in the contemporary Kurdish city,

one that has been identified in the literature as the 'privatization of public space'. This restructuring of the urban landscape has been facilitated by the interlocking components of the real estate, finance, construction and design sectors, and reflects the influence of the latter at the expense of municipal oversight. In conceptual terms, this may be of only limited importance, insofar as cities in the Iran have been both shaped and produced by corporate interests for a very long time (Kohn, 2004; Kirby, 2008). (Table 1).

According to Parsons, the two elements (i.e. physical environment and the ultimate values) have effects on people's role in establishing and maintaining urban safety. In the way that the physical-organic environment provides environmental facilities for individuals (like those exist in any family and neighborhood: the existence of participatory organizations and barriers to development and participation) and the ultimate value will monitor the future (such as hope for the future and improvement of the condition). Thus the collaborative macro-level factors bound human reactions, but although the human is bounded to social, economic and cultural conditions, he can alter these structures with his reactions (Crib, 2009; Tavasoli, 1994; Ritter's, 2008; Yazdanpanah, 2004). In other hand, Bertolini

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Table 1: Some theories and indexes in urban space planning with respect to mobility theories (Source: Kashanjou, 2010)

Key note	Year	Title	Theorist
Keep of pedestrians, Climate, Pedestrians crossing of urban green space	1917	Industrial city	Garnie
Sidewalk which provides the highest level of contact with an urban place	1960	Architecture of cities and towns	Regen
The priority of pedestrians in urban spaces and upgrade the quality of sidewalks	1968	New York, a study on quality, identity and definition of participation	Halprine
Continuous movement of people and public urban spaces	1968	Urban public space designing	Baken
Position and movement of citizens in urban spaces	1996	Analysis of space alignment	Hallier

and Gist (1999a, 2003b) believe that an available public space is a space that not only many different people can go there, but it's a place that people can have a variety of activities there. (Bertoliny, 1999) and Fatemi (2005) mentioned in his book as "hesitation on women's political-social participation before and after Islamic revolution of Iran" has discussed the women's political and social roles in history of Iran and has compared women's participation before and after the revolution. He believes in women's hidden participation after the revolution (Fatemi, 2005). It can be noted that in Iran the women's participation (as priors who can change the comprehensive living pattern through their effective participation in decision maker organizations) is not in good condition, because considering scales such as the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, percentage of woman managers, percentage of employed and expert women, percentage of women's share in realized earnings, they are not in good condition and they have poor participation in designing and securing urban spaces (Ahmadnia, 2004; Chaboki, 2004; Naji-e-Rad, 2003). Thus the focus of the present study will be the safety of urban public spaces (streets & sidewalks, especially) for different users especially for women and with their own contribution. In order to some sociologists believe that the 21th century is women's century and tried to explain their position and beliefs. They have also sometimes expressed the public space term in conflict with private space and as a subtitle of public spaces. Centuries ago, Aristotle defined the space as a common social bubble. Considering this definition, Hajer (2001) defined urban spaces as places, belong to all individuals and different social groups, places for exchanging information and ideas and also places that social networks will be formed there (Hajer, 2001). Riggers (2003) is a scholar with consistency tendency and in his work as "cities for a small planet" defines public realm as an encouraging factor in social mobility because he believes that a sustainable city should be characterized by justice, beauty, creativity, ecology, compactness or multicenter, diversity and finally easy information exchange in a way that both face-to-face and electronic information be exchanged (Riggers,

2003). On the other hand it can be said that the need for traffic safety in public spaces is one of the basic needs and has different dimensions itself. In various sources, safety has been considered as an optimal benchmark in determining proper locations for urban usages, in addition of other criteria such as fitness, comfort, efficiency and utility, (Saeednia, 2008).

### Review of Literature

Jacobe believes that the presence of people in urban spaces will have issues such as safety and social security as its followings. Reliance on public oversight in urban space designing, creating a spatial focus, increasing intensity and mixing and utilization of the space and the proper skeletal organization, all form the sustainable and qualitative aspects of public realms. Public spaces must be open to all classes, age and gender groups and social minorities at all hours of the day. They must be safe and easy transportation must be provided (Khammar et al., 2011). According to Golmoradi's research in university of Kermanshah (2011) the raise of urban insecurity attracted many socialists' attention. He conclude that factors such as rate of cultural promotion ( $r=0/17$ ), rate of urban authenticity, rate of participation in subjective and objective dimension have a positive and significant correlation with the decrease of insecurity (Golmoradi, 2011). Zokin (2011) in his book -culture of cities- says urban spaces are not safe enough for citizens to participate in creation of public culture. So according to Zokin the main index is citizens' partnership in creating of urban spaces in a way that users can both use it and try to make it a safe place (Zokin, 2011). According to Wilkinson (2012), the continuous participation of citizens especially women in cities can lead to reduction of population growth, greater security, better quality of life, social cohesion in health and wellness domain and by providing friendship patterns in urban communities' causes comfort and confidence of citizens. Falikof (2012) believes that the use of metal fences for doors and windows of houses and also high and tight walls rather than short walls confirms that there is insecurity among citizens (Falikof, 2012). Backer has quoted from Goffman

that an individual's participation in the interaction system is a factor that causes a sense of responsibility for his continuous participation and it will lead to constant behavior of that individual (Baker, 1960). Helly (1997) says women's social participation is linked to several factors:

Factors linked with individual features, such as individual's social-economical position in the society that causes him to consider any social activity or personal approach useful if they lead to relative progress, hopping to employment and hope for the future.

education level;

age ranking;

sexual and sexual traits;

Family member background;

Social motives (diversity of synergistic groups in social issues and diversity for social structures) (Helly, 1997).

According to White (1998) the availability of a public space must be judged considering its communication with its surroundings, either, physical or visual. A proper space is a space that entering into it or out of it is easy. Furthermore, street type is also an influencing factor for social interaction and public space availability. For example, local streets are more favorable than main streets. Sidewalks are also important as links between private and public spaces (Talen, 2000). According to the urban planning program of Britain, there are nine influencing factor in measuring the quality of public spaces:

Both city officials and citizens try to keep public spaces, clean.

Considering accessibility principle, with respect to citizens' mobility and spatial behavior.

Functionality of various urban works in space.

Comfort and attractiveness of urban landscapes and public spaces.

The rate of inclusion, i.e. urban spaces is designed for which groups or what purposes?

Considering factors such as refresh and mobility when designing urban spaces.

Considering safety and security of urban spaces.

Considering the difference of urban spaces in designing and urban planning.

Reconstructing and upgrading urban public spaces (Hanifi-e-Asl, 2009; OUPUK, 2011).

Ikblore (1992) has done a research titled as people's attitudes toward security, using data of the American Statistics and Research office. The results showed that the social security was in good condition in 1970s and 1980s, but when the financial crisis occurred, public confidence was decreased from 63% in 1975 to 39% in 1978. The results also show that most of the people emphasized on people's income, especially for retirement. Finally the results showed that in the case of voluntary participation in establishing social security, many people are interested in staying in this system (Ikblore, 1992). As a native experience, a research was done in Mashhad on

720 women who were 15 years old and older and the women's feeling of security in public spaces were examined. The results showed that using Theodor Camera's power base theory, of 720 respondents, 461 people i.e. about 63.6% believes in high risk of accident. In the case of sidewalks, 63.5% had fallen down at least once. They mentioned roughness of the sidewalks as the main reason. In social field, the results showed that the more self-confident the women were (whether due to job or social position) the more sense of security they had in traffic areas. And the women who daily presents in urban spaces felt more sense of security when compared with other women (Ezazi, 2002).

At the beginning, it is necessary to open the meaning and the definition of a city in this country and Kurdish region. It is evident that there are different urban definitions on the basis of various criteria in each country, for example the number of population and municipal status. In Iran before 1986 each urban settlement with 5000 dwellers were considered as cities. This process continue until 1996 which according to National decisions Islamic council of Iran this rate increased to 10,000 dwellers for each place which can named it city. This rate for third times goes down to 3000 dwellers for each urban region in Iran and Kurdish cities in the year of 2011 and this led to many villages' classifications in the cities category. While this rate bin differ countries its may goes up and down (Statistical National center of Iran, 2006). The number of Kurdish cities increased from 6 in 1976 to 23 (10 main cities and 13 minor cities as subset cities) in 2012. In the different National development plans in before and after revolution point on increase urbanizations related to industrialization of these urban Settlements in these areas. Cerate cement factory in Bijar city was the first step to access this purpose in after Islamic revolution and caused the migration of hundreds of thousands of villagers to the cities and also growth of private subdivisions. On the one hand, a cheap workforce for economic activities in cities in industrial and building services was provided; on the other hand, production and consumption within the villages was subsumed into the urban capitalist economy. During the implementation of these plans, most of industrial activities in Sanandaj and Saqqez and its surrounding areas have been centralized (Habibi, 1996). In urban planning, CABE Space ignores many criteria; and Socio spatial Sustainability only considers the timeframe of project construction, while disregarding the value of spatial built systems. For introducing the component model of Sustainable Landscape, in the level of system ecology, aspects of nature and bio system on the one hand, and manmade program and idea system on the other hand, are identifiable (Barghjelveh & Sayad, 2011).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Applied methodology is based on librarian, documents and field studies. Statistical society of current research was including 200 citizens, experts and urban officials. In order to, sampling method is simple random sampling. Morgan's sample size

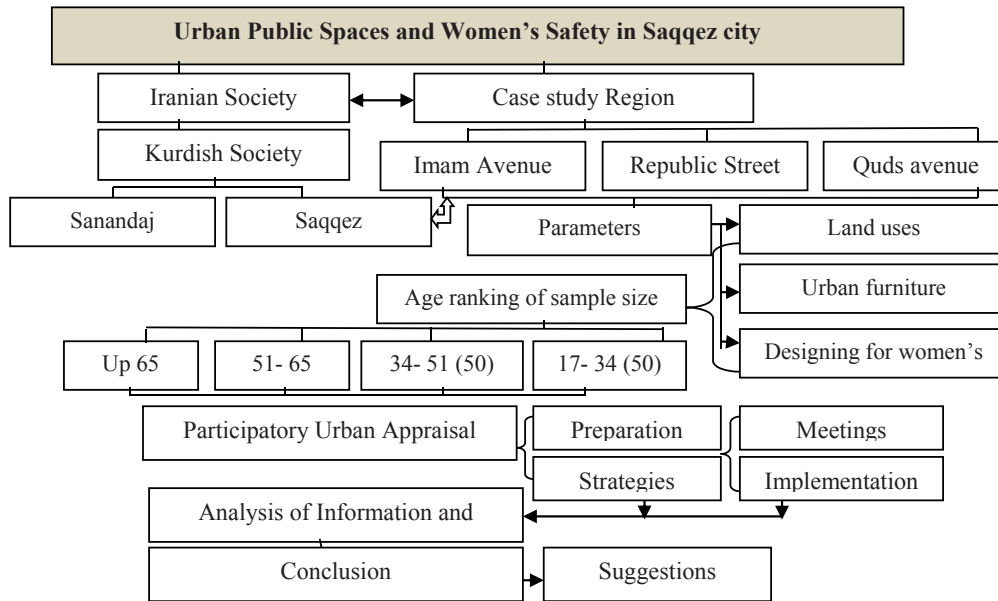


Fig. 1: Conceptual Diagram of Research.

estimation table was used to determine size of samples. Finally, Data's were analyzed through SPSS and Excel software's. It is presented some solve ways in the framework of SWOT strategy. (Fig.1)

In order to, Saqqez is the second largest city of Kurdistan and is located 180 km away from the capital. The geographical position is 33 degree and 44 minutes to 35 degree and 34 minutes of North latitude and 45 degree and 34 minutes of east

latitude and the height from the see is nearly 1496 meters (Fig. 2). According to the last official census (2012), the population of Saqqez is nearly 208,425 which among these, 150000 live in city center and the rest live in other towns of the city. The city area is equivalent to 15.49 % of the total province area. Saqqez is surrounded by West Azerbaijan in North and West, by Marivan and Iraq in South, by Divan dare in East (Consulting Engineers of Piravesh, 2007).



Fig. 2: Case study Region.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Previous studies on women's safety in urban communities emphasized mainly on physical aspects, but the present study has also paid attention to mental well-being of women. Since it could not be achieved just by the present research alone, more researches on women's participation are much needed. Urban Participation Assessing Model (PUA), in addition of emphasizing on citizens local knowledge also shows that local people should be able to analyze urban problems and being able to find solutions coordinately (Moser, 2012).

### Analyzing the Usage Purposes of the Studied Area and Women's Attitudes Toward their Mental Well-being:

The sample size of the present study includes 200 women, living and working in Saqqez. Therefore for more comprehensive of the sample, 50 were selected from 17-34 year old women, 50 from 34-51 year old women and 50 from 51- 65 year old women and 50 up to 65, for field studies and taking part in PUA meetings. The present study has considered different factors with respect to current usage status of the studied area. In the

Table 2: The results of women's satisfaction in age 17-14 year's old resulted analysis of usage conditions in studied areas

Age 17-34 years old				
Indexes	Northern Imam ST	Southern Imam ST	Jomhoori ST	Quds ST
Recreational spaces	Acceptable	Acceptable	Good	Good
Negative sense of the Place	Weak	Very good	Good	Excellent
Parking lots	Excellent	Weak	Weak	Very good
Places without social usage	Good	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable
Protect children	Excellent	Very good	Weak	Acceptable
Urban Safety	Weak	Acceptable	Weak	Weak
Diversified places	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Excellent

Table 3: The results of women's satisfaction in age 34- 51 year's old resulted analysis of usage conditions in studied areas

Age 34- 51 years old				
Indexes	Northern Imam ST	Southern Imam ST	Jomhoori ST	Quds ST
Recreational spaces	Good	Acceptable	Good	Excellent
Negative sense of the Place	Weak	Excellent	Very good	excellent
Parking lots	Excellent	Acceptable	Weak	Good
Places without social usage	Good	Good	Acceptable	Acceptable
Protect children	Good	Very good	Weak	Good
Urban Safety	Weak	Acceptable	Weak	Weak
Diversified places	Excellent	Weak	Acceptable	Good

Table 4: The results of women's satisfaction in age 51- 65 year's old resulted analysis of usage conditions in studied areas

Age 51- 65 years old				
Indexes	Northern Imam ST	Southern Imam ST	Jomhoori ST	Quds ST
Recreational spaces	Acceptable	Weak	Weak	Very good
Negative sense of the Place	Very good	Good	Acceptable	Very good
Parking lots	Good	Acceptable	Very good	Acceptable
Places without social usage	Weak	Weak	Good	Acceptable
Protect children	Good	Very good	Good	Acceptable
Urban Safety	Acceptable	Acceptable	Weak	Weak

Table 5: The results of women's satisfaction in age 51- 65 year's old resulted analysis of usage conditions in studied areas

Older than 65 years				
Indexes	Northern Imam ST	Southern Imam ST	Jomhoori ST	Quds ST
Recreational spaces	Good	Acceptable	Weak	Good
Negative sense of the place	Very good	Acceptable	Good	Good
Parking lots	Acceptable	Weak	Good	Very good
Places without social usage	Weak	Good	Very good	Weak
Protect children	Good	Very good	Very good	Good
Urban Safety	Good	Good	Good	Acceptable
Diversified places	Acceptable	Acceptable	Very good	Good

first step, a questionnaire was distributed and women were asked to specify level of their satisfaction, using a qualitative range: excellent, very good, good, acceptable and weak. (Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5).

According to the obtained data, the land uses in general, as one of the quality indexes was not in a good state. According to the women views in this study, lack of recreational spaces in addition of work places, negative sense of the place, non-diversified places, tourism usage, lack of social usage, limited places for children and oldness of the urban spaces were the main mentioned issues.

Street, from Kosar Institute to Adami, there were suitable places for sitting, but they were not enough, especially for women, because of high number of users. Most of women complained about the inappropriate distribution of taxi stands and bus stops across the city, for example in Imam Khomeini Street, there is no place for sitting and waiting for bus. Just in Jomhoori Street and in two points far from each other, few places are provided for waiting for bus and resting. This is the same, in Quds and Northern Streets. Thus in the studied area, taxi stands and bus stops are not distributed appropriately and women have to cross the streets several times to access them.

Table 6: Quantitative results of providing women's satisfaction in case study streets according to studied indexes:

Age Ranking	17- 34	34- 51	51- 65	Older than 65
Indexes				
recreational spaces	30%	26%	30%	32%
negative sense of the place	46%	32%	28%	28%
Parking lots	25%	8%	20%	34%
Places without social usage	26%	24%	18%	18%
Protect children	16%	16%	32%	26%
Urban Safety	10%	34%	52%	2%
diversified places	14%	8%	16%	22%

### Problems of Urban Furniture of Saqez from the Perspective of Women Studies:

In relation to the status of urban furniture of Saqez City, some meeting were held and there, urban furniture was defined for women and they were asked to write the related problems in a piece of paper, starting with the most important ones. The first problem that was mentioned by women was that the urban furniture was not compatible with cultural status and identity of residents. Most of this furniture was designed regardless of climate elements of the region, so for example one urban element was not compatible with other elements. In Jomhoori

Another problem is that zebra crossings are not just close to taxi or bus stops to make traffic, easier.

After complementary studies were done, the following results obtained as shown in Fig. 3.

The following results will be taken from fig. 3:

In the case of lack of urban furniture, Northern Imam Khomeini Street had been the worst (35% out of 100%) and Quds street was the best (18% out of 100%).

In the case of light at night, Southern Imam Khomeini Street



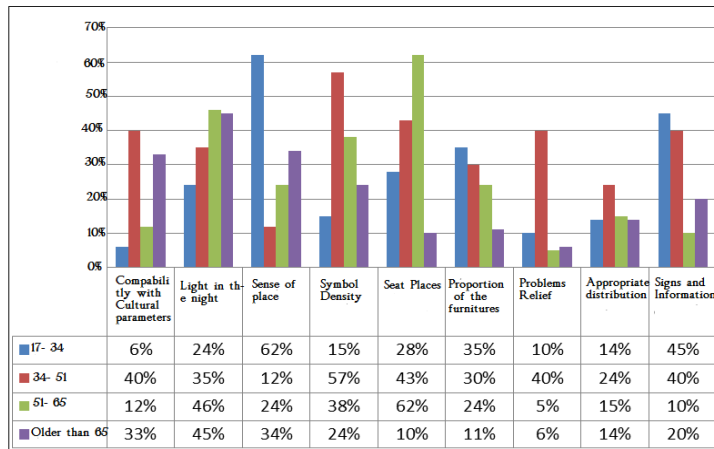


Fig. 3: Percent of women's satisfaction of urban furniture's in Saqqez city.

was the best (40% out of 100%) and Northern Imam Khomeini Street was the worst (6% out of 100%).

In the case of disharmony of used elements in a place, Northern Imam Khomeini Street was the worst (35% out of 100%) and Quds street was the best (18% out of 100%).

In the case of the density of elements in the studied area, women mentioned that among 4 studied areas, 3 were not in favorable status, descriptively and after field investigations and quantitative valuation of the indexes, it was found that Imam khomeini Street was the best (38%) and Northern Imam Khomeini Street, Quds and Jomhoori were the worst (24%, 25% and 13%) and were graded as moderate, weak and very weak, respectively.

In urban spaces, some unforeseen events (such as shortness of breath, nervous attacks and periodic diseases) may occur especially for women that require immediate assistance. Thus the status of rescue and relief centers was mentioned in the present study and with respect to this, Imam Khomeini Street was the best among 4 studied areas (45%) and Southern Imam Khomeini Street (25%), Quds Street (24%) and Northern Imam Khomeini Street were ranked lower.

In the case of the appropriate distribution of urban furniture, Jomhoori Street was the best (38%) and Southern Imam khomeini Street was the worst (14%).

### Analysing the Design of Women's Favorable Spaces

It seems that gender structure or the way that social duties are divided between men and women and its consequences during the history, are all based on the assumption of a required relation of normal sex. Thus women are linked to private spaces and men to public spaces. On the other hand, in cities public spaces were always dominated by men. But today, women's presence at work or other public activities has changed the dominant norms of the society and as its consequence, the

space organizations have changed too. The most important problems about designing women's favorable spaces that were mentioned by women, included:

multiplicity of visual symbols, 100 out of 200 women considered Southern Imam khomeini Street as the worst, 44 women (Jomhoori Street) 33 women (Northern Imam khomeini Street) and 25 women (Quds Street).

Disharmony of residential and commercial buildings in terms of oldness, frontage and height. The results showed that 13 women out of 200, considered Southern Imam khomeini Street as the worst, 47 women (Northern Imam khomeini Street), 55 women (Quds Street) and 85 women (Jomhoori Street).

Absence of special rooms for mothers and their children and also absence of places for sitting or studying in bus stops or crowded places were other indexes mentioned by women. Questionnaire data showed that 87 women considered Northern Imam khomeini Street as the worst, 55 women (Southern Imam khomeini Street), 45 women (Quds Street) and 13 women (Jomhoori Street).

Ignoring safety principles in urban traffic, was another index mentioned by women, but as a lower priority. With respect to this, 116 women out of 200, considered Southern Imam khomeini Street as the worst. The least problems in relation to designing safe traffic points for women, in studied area, was observed in Northern Imam khomeini Street (10 women). Jomhoori Street (45 women) and Quds Street (29 women) were considered as the worst in terms of traffic safety of employed, resident and travelling women in the studied area.

### Analysing the Studies According to Women's Ideas and Field Studies

In order to test the hypothesis, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were illustrated in below tables. (Table 7).

Table 7: Analysis of usage studies in order to test hypotheses:

(Threats)	(Opportunities)	(Weaknesses)	(Strengths)
The excessive combination of commercial and residential and usages.	A large percentage of abandoned buildings within the context.	Shortage of leisure and sitting Usages (chairs placed at bus stations).	Ardalan Straight as the oldest local market in this area.
Disproportionate usages without a comprehensive definition in the detailed plans.	Possibility of using the lands without special owners or with fled owners out of the country, for the construction of women parks, public common usages.	Lack of parking and poor spatial distribution of it in the studied area, particularly in Quds and Jomhoori Streets.	Multiple usages to meet the multifarious needs of citizens.
Dilapidated buildings especially the ruins.	Large amount of money in circulation due to the large amount of buying and selling of goods (over exchange of goods).	Usages that don't create sense of a suitable place among users, working women, residents and visitors.	The placement of credible insurance, commercial, cultural and service centers in pathways and streets leading to the studied area.
Cultural differences in users of urban spaces.	economical capacities and historical background in absorbing the known and compatible usages.	Lack of child care places (such as mother-child rooms).	

Table 8: Analysis of urban furniture in order to test hypotheses:

(Threats)	(Opportunities)	(Weaknesses)	(Strengths)
Multiplicity and excessive combination of some furniture along with narrow pathways has caused many safety problems across the Southern Imam and Jomhoori Streets.	Throughout the area, there is the Potential of making furniture compatible with the local culture and identification.	Shortage of furniture to sit throughout the studied area.	Enough number of comfortable furniture in Jomhoori and Quds Streets.
Symbol pollution through the area and its relation with abnormal behavior by the citizens.	Existence of suitable spaces for development of comfortable furniture along the streets and pathways.	Shortage of lighting furniture at night, especially in the areas specially those leading to Southern Imam Khomeini Street and its secondary roads.	Regarding the visual furniture (informational and advertising symbols), Northern Imam and Quds Streets are in good condition.

The first hypothesis that this study is going to prove its truth or falsity is: "The physical body and conditions of the central part of Saqqez is not providing comfort and safety for women in the current conditions" According to our results, although there are differences between the considered ideal quantities and the current situation, but women's safety and comfort in the central part of the town as well as in the studied area have been provided to an acceptable level. (Table 8).

The negative effects have not been limited to a specific group of users of these spaces. Thus, the first hypothesis was rejected with certainty. The second hypothesis investigated in this study was "There is a significant difference between the current status and the ideal status of women's participation in the urban spaces of Saqqez, with respect to qualitative indexes of participation." In relation to this assumption, the field and the participation studies in the area have shown that there is a significant difference between the present situation indexes and that of the ideal situation of these indicators and the potential participation of women is not only actualized

but also due to the existence of different definitions and sometimes violating each other the capabilities were not understood and no efforts has been done to achieve the majority of these indicators.

## CONCLUSION

These problems in different dimensions such as shortage of comfortable furniture, excessive density of urban elements in a special area, and lack of some in another neighborhood, failure to meet the needs of clients and combination of usages of lacking of parted area and etc. have hindered the comfort and convenience of users of urban spaces, especially women. As the result, according to the data obtained, the second hypothesis of the study was proved. After reviewing the current status in all fields and discovering the truth about each of the indicators, it is necessary to provide guidelines for the second hypothesis of the present study. In this context, the Executive and practical proposals will be presented to resolve problems and to utilize the opportunities in the best way. (Tables 9, 10 and 11).



Table 9: Strategies and suggestions in relation to usages in the studied area

Field	Strategies and suggestions
Applicable studies	Attention to the construction and development of recreation usages and places to sit (seats located at bus stations, parks).
	Moving and relocating of the travel absorbent but without social function and vitality usages in the space (such as clinics, offices, hospitals and pharmacies).
	Optimal distribution of parking in the area, particularly in Quds and Jomhoori Streets which are in lower positions in this respect.
	Developing and strengthening native usages which not only instill the sense of a good place for women but also it meets their physiological and psychological.
	Reducing traffic and population by planning in a suitable way in relation to usages for the studied area.
	Separation of residential areas than other places causing to more safety in the studied areas.
	Considering Islamic architecture and its guidelines women-specified usages, especially in places specified to women which are not covered.

Table 10: Strategies and suggestions in relation to urban furniture in the studied area:

Field	Strategies and suggestions
Studies of Urban furniture	Trying to use more comfortable furniture throughout the studied area (tables, benches and play equipment for children).
	Providing a comprehensive plan for the development of urban furniture and equipment that within a period of time including short term, medium term and long term to reach all predetermined purposes.
	Removing the flaw in lighting systems especially at night, and in the areas leading to Southern Imam Streets and its secondary streets.
	Relocating and optimal distribution of urban furniture over the studied areas particularly in Jomhoori and South Imam Khomeini Streets.
	Reducing symbolic pollutions in the studied area in order to reduce anti-social behavior of some citizens and to provide more safety and comfort for women.
	Using open spaces and stress of pathways, service complexes and commercial complexes for development of comfortable furnishings.
	Establishing some furniture matched to local and cultural identity the local people that match.
	Necessity of paying more attention to develop more relief and aid stations as happening disaster.
	Preventing pause during the process of improvement of the furniture.

Table 11: Strategies and suggestions in relation to studies of designing appropriate spaces for women:

Field	Strategies and suggestions
Applicable studies	Considering the improvement of old and historic buildings in the studied areas (Saqqez old theater and Ardalan Market).
	Designing urban signs and features consistent with female and local identity.
	Attention to eliminating visual distortion caused by the multiplicity of urban symbols which threaten women's comfort, safety and welfare.
	Preventing inharmonious constructions in the margin of passageways by applying construction rules.
	Providing region and climate based urban designing and the compatible architecture.
	Designing of paved streets and pedestrian pathways in a safe way.
	Offering a modern design dealing with poor designing of elements and urban furniture.

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