Assessment of Inclusive Urban Performance in Public Spaces

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Abstract: A public space is one of the basic components of the city due to the multiple functions it rolled, which make its importance clear over the history as a social and political space where many different activities took place. The 21st century is witnessing an increasing interest and care in public spaces due to their importance in absorption of overall future challenges that the city are facing. Accordingly, the research has been crystalized to be the necessity to determine the indicators of assessment public spaces of the twenty first century public spaces according to the public dimensions of the public space. Subsequently, the objective of this research is to clarify the role of public spaces in the formation of city center by assessing the friendliness of public spaces by meeting the individual's requirements and needs in the urban environment. To achieve that, through making the indicators of urban performance as an assessment tool to assess public space friendliness to publics, thus their responsiveness to 21st century context. Therefore, this study discusses the concept of urban performance and its classification within urban space. It shows the most important dimension of urban space which is connected with one of the strategies of urban design concept of urban integration to get a summarized conclusion of theoretical framework to apply in practical way on one of the most important urban spaces in Baghdad (Al-umma park) as a case study.

I.   Introduction

The public space represents the driving force of development in economic, social, and cultural life, reflecting also the spatial organization of human society. Taking into account the fact that cities are becoming generators of economic development and a source of growth for the local economy, there is an increasing urge to identify the stages of development and to establish a system for the ranking and positioning of cities and regions in this process. Therefore, the terms of performance appeared when the quality of urban life and work is currently being challenged and shaped by many forces, such as demographic patterns (aging and disability, for example), international economics (globalization and the demise of distance), and environmental pressures (sustainability, resource conservation, energy). Our inquiries around this theme ask how cities can be reshaped in the face of these forces; how design and construction standards affect livability and energy consumption

II. SECTION ONE URBAN PERFORMANCE

It is defined the assessment as a tool that can be used by decision-makers and policy-makers to decide which action they should and should not take in an attempt to make society or their cities

more sustainable. And through a set of indicators to measure the phenomenon of current status or over consecutive periods of time, the indicators reveal the conduct of that phenomenon positively or negatively to determine the strengths or weaknesses (1). Indicators are used for measurement through comparison between cases or performance (the way in which the conduct of the phenomenon) and assess the trends that relate to the objectives and how to provide early warning about the negative phenomena and predict the future for urban performance in cities. (2).

Also, it is defined here as the expression or manifestation of different social groups in the city space regarding the appropriation of a specific place for its spatial practices. Thus:-

Three themes are discussed: urban society and economy: towards social equity through effective planning policies and tools - a behavioral perspective; improving urban performance: urban design and ecosystems; and governance and urban organization: integrated decision-making.

Urban performance classification

1. Social performance

Over the previous few decades, the planet has witnessed a noteworthy pass towards urbanization. In 2007, for the primary time in history, the quantity of urban open space has overrun the quantity of rural population and it's anticipated of this development to continue increasing because the statistics referred that by 2050, the share of urban population goes to be common fraction of overall world population (3). Within the following, the study goes to debate three responses of social trends to urbanization: demographic modification, well-being and urban sprawl.

2. Technology performance

Technology is defined as those activities, directed towards the satisfaction of human wants, which produce change in the material world (4). Two dimensions of technology have radically contributed to changing the urban systems and the physical form of cities. The first dimension is represented by E-mobility technology and the second dimension is represented by telecommunication technology which shaped a new form of open spaces called 'electronic agora'.

3. Environmental Performance

The environment represents the most challenging issue in 21 century. The climate change will continue growing until the middle of twenty first century. Environmental and ecological pollution are divided into five types: soil, noise, air, light and water pollutions (5). Because of rare resources that will lead to economic concern, statistics show that in the in early 2030, there will be an increase in the demand for food , energy, and water into 35%, 50%,40% respectively (6). increasing the risk on the health of human, environment and system of cities as a result of decreasing the green area in one side and increasing in the heat degree of island in the other side (7), for this reason led many leaderships to foster different methods to minimize these challenges. Like, depending on walkability instead of using the car or other machine that use diesel, benzene...etc.

4. Economic Performance

In the period, a new economic orientation has been created due to social and environmental orientation. On the other hand, the rapid development of technology and globalization help to find new solutions to numerous shocks in our cities. There are Two different economic models which are believe to break the urban system. The first model is sharing economy, while the other one is identifying economics.

Accordingly, the study has singled qualities out: inclusive: to refer to sociable, attractive, walkable and productive space to spur for new social experiences and contributes to socio-economic aspect of sustainability, it refers to accessible, safe, healthy, attractive space that reflects the multiple publics of 21st century and contribute to socio-environmental aspect of sustainability. All of these qualities are responding to multiple shocks of 21st century and reflect the intellectual variables of the area. (see table below shows this classification and shocks of 21st century)

Urban performance classification	causes	Shocks	21st century strategies of sustainability city center
Social performance	demographic patterns change	Insolation in urban social	Inclusive
	Urban sprawl	Social fragmentation	
	Well-being	Inequity	
economic performance	Globalization and competitiveness	Urban social stress, economic issues	
	international economics	Economic shock	
Environmental sustainable Performance	environmental pressures	Climate change	
Technology of performance	Technology	Search for meaning	

III. SECTION TWO OPEN SPACES CONCEPTUAL

Public space is a pivotal element of the city because of different vital it presents which makes it as "a complicated and changing type of space". "Open space (extensively characterized) identifies with everyone of those pieces of the constructed and nature environment, open and private, external and internal, urban and rustic, where the public reach free, despite the fact that not really unlimited access. It includes: All the roads, squares and different privileged way, regardless of whether prevalently in private, business or network/municipal utilizations; the open spaces and stops; the open farmland, the „public/private" spaces both inner and outside where community is

invited – whenever controlled –, for example, private strip malls or rail and transport stations .etc., Therefore, public space represents a very active element of public life as has resulted socially.

Public space is a multifarious/multifunctional, accessible space, consists of multiple publics. It's an abstract form of public place and a component of public realm, a location for and a product of public sphere, its issues abridge by public domain. So, Public space can be construed as multi-disciplinary term for associating to different disciplines such as sociology, urban design, architecture, economy.

Public Space Classification

1. Political Economy Perspective

Understanding requires first understanding the urban spaces that comprise our contemporary urban areas. By and large, urban communities have two domains, public and private, inside physical public domain, there are various open spaces that are freely claimed/figured out how to be available and open to all individuals, just as, inside physical private domain there are various private spaces that are exclusive and not freely public or open. In the middle of these two sorts of spaces, another two sorts of spaces enter to overcome any issues among private and open spaces in particular private-open spaces which contain spaces claimed and/or oversaw either by the open area or by private/open (pseudopublic) associations where a few limitations are forced on utilize. According to this point of view, proprietorship and the executive's mode come as a key to characterize the privilege to public space by determining the privilege forcing on spatial use and clients.

2. Socio-Cultural Perspective

From social point of view, (8). has proposed two types of public space as indicated by its utilization and clients, in particular resolute public space and liberal public space. Resolute public space alludes to all spaces that structured and worked by architects, organizers for just single use and utilized by determined natives, instances of those spaces are zoned focal business locale and local locations, social and strip malls, while receptive public space alludes to all spaces that planned and worked for various use and utilized by assorted natives, for example, squares and plaza,

neighborhoods with its very own shops, patios, where people take rest, (8). Also, single public space usually linked with being fast while open public space links with being slow pace vital for example watching, walking, gossiping and talking (9).

3. Design Perspective

A standout amongst the most conspicuous zones in characterizing public space depends on its plan. In this point of view, formal and useful perspectives are regularly used to analysis various kinds of public space. From physical structure spectacles, numerous endeavors have been made through decades to characterize public space. On the other hand, various investigations endeavored to classify public spaces at an undeniably progressively modern morphological perspective, proposing two sorts of public space: Static space and dynamic spaces (10). Static spaces refer to the spaces that are resort to be specified, passive, clear, net, calm, non-continuous, non- directional, promote to sitting or staying in. They are framing a field that includes diverse urban exercises particularly those which fortify the social interaction, for example, great focal courts, squares, city parks, green regions … etc. (10). In the other hand, Dynamic spaces mean spaces that propose motion, flow, vital, action, excitation, conflict, shaping the circulatory arrangement of the city which associate various pieces of the city and speaking to by the road system and transportation modes, pedestrian network [sidewalks and walker bridges], green ways, road furniture notwithstanding steam and stream hallways (10).

Dimensions of publicness		
Political Economy Perspective	Ownership	a space 's legal status
	Management	the way the place is cared for on a day to-day basis, as well as to practices of control
Socio-Cultural Perspective	Inclusiveness	the degree a place meets the demands of different individuals and groups
Design Perspective	Accessibility	Physical and legal barriers to access; visual access and obstacles through design.

IV. URBAN PERFORMANCE AS INCLUSIVE OPEN SPACES

Reaping the benefits of urbanization process can be derailed by the increasing of inequities and social exclusion which accompany this process, prompting many international societies to pinpoint inclusivity as one of crucial goals of the sustainable development1. The concept of inclusivity has been interpreted differently by many researchers for instance it was described is an empowerment of individuals regardless their race, religion, economic state to participate in the process of decision - making, emphasizing by that on. European Commission (2013) (12). describes it as 'social, territorial cohesion' with increasing job opportunities. Meanwhile, the South African cities network are specified in social and spatial cohesion as two criteria of inclusivity. Thus, the notion of inclusivity is about accomplishing a state of social equity which aligns with social sustainability by being a part of public sphere. The key quality of city center is formed by the concept of inclusivity which occurs on two stages: spatial and social inclusion. Both of social and spatial inclusion spurs to the creation of social interaction, consequently achieving urban cohesion. This cohesion can be diminished when exclusion from city center occurs. Two processes of exclusion have been identified in urban city center: spatial exclusion which occurred by the presence of military and security camera, lack of design elements, in addition to environmental and planning issues such as traffic and pollution which can consequently lead to discouraging people to live in city center by losing sense of belonging and feeling of safety. The other mechanism is social exclusion which occurred by excluding some social groups or race (citizenship exclusion) or local participation in managing, designing and building city center (decisions exclusion). Therefore , demographic changes will require designing inclusive public space for different life stages to spur new social experience and avoid isolation identified tangled urban design qualities to make outdoor environments age-friendly.(11).

1. Familiarity: efers to the extent to which streets are recognisable to senior citizens and easily understood.

2. Legibility: Legibility refers to the extent to which streets help older people to understand where they are associated with familiarity and distinctiveness
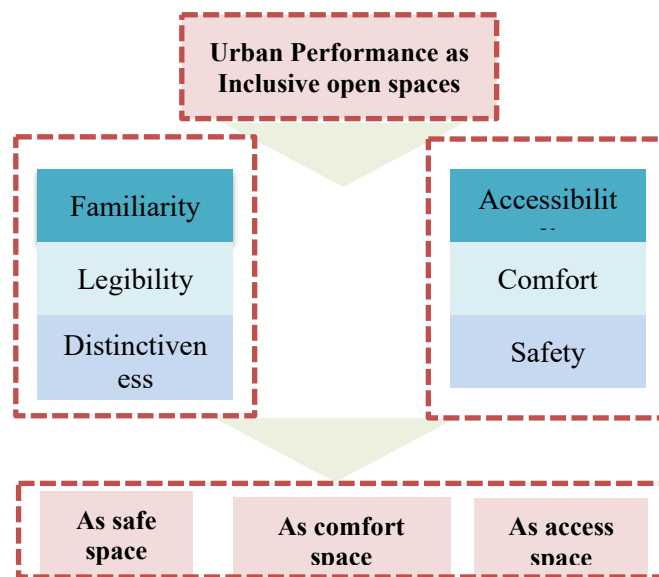
3. Distinctiveness: relates to the extent to which streets give a clear image of where they are, what their uses are and where they lead

4. Accessibility: refers to the extent to which streets enable older people to reach, enter, use and walk around places.

5. Comfort: refers to the extent to which streets enable people to visit places of their choice and to enjoy being out of the house.

6. Safety: Safety refers to the extent to which streets enable people to use, enjoy and move around the outside environment without fear of tripping or falling, being run-over or being attacked.
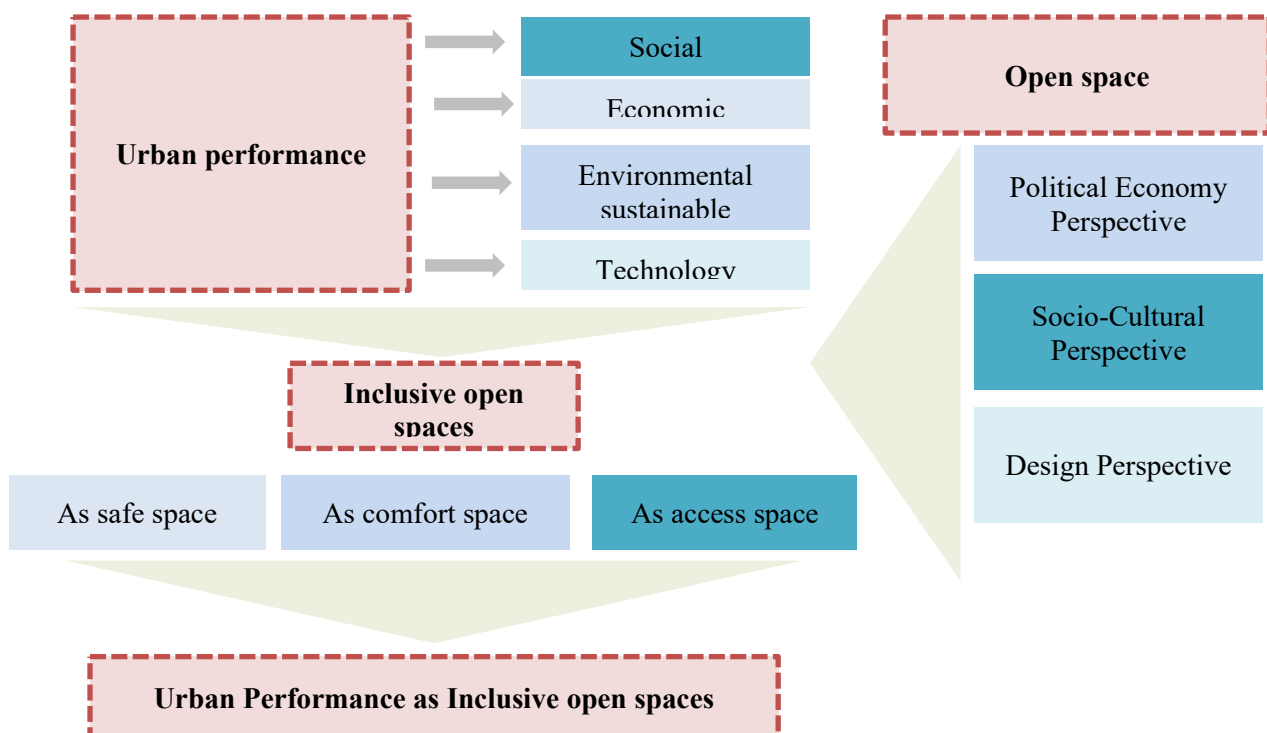
Fig 1: The Characteristics of Public Space as Inclusive Space

V. ABSTRACT OF THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND STUDY CASE

Theoretical Framework

Fig 2: Abstract of theoretical framework Ref. (the researcher)

Case Study

The case study in this research that represented urban space Al-Umma Park due to an important location in Baghdad city. It's between two urban nodes (Al-Tahrir square and Al-Tiaran square). Al-umma park can be considered as one of the most important meeting points of the main access that linking
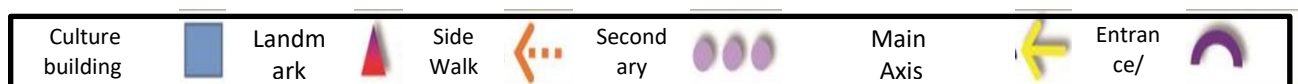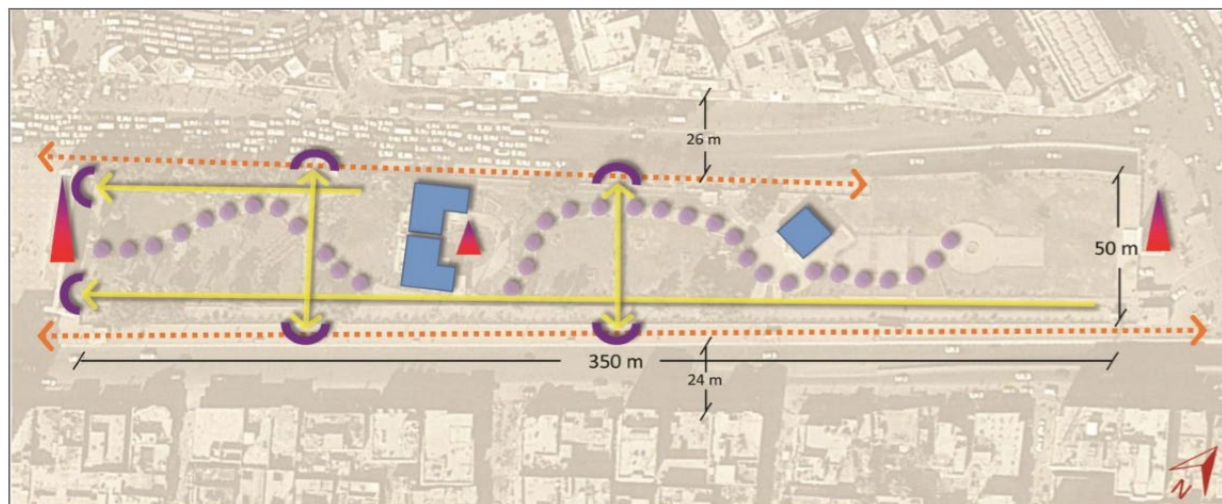
between Al-kerkh and Al-Risafa. In the other hand, the location of Al-Umma park is another characteristics that middling between three landmarks that make urban space more importance due to what those landmarks representing of social and cultural background.

Fig 3: Al-umma park ref. the researcher

1. Analytical View of Al-Umma Park

Al –Umma park was neglected in the middle of 1980 it became an omitted space after Baghdad's municipality disregard it through the place where the park in exposure to demolition most of buildings like (cinemas, Theaters) also the war explosion all these effected on the place passersby from all ages of society (13). The research shows the reality of urban space of Al-Umma park in 21st century through performance assessment to coalition society indicators within urban space because of the space lost his previous importance as a social space on Baghdad city scale a desertion it from peoples and turn into an abandoned space also the space explored to terrorist attack (2006) all these factors led to convert the space as unwanted place instead of become an attractive place as a result led to loss his urban performance to achieve the social inclusive.

Culture building		Landmark		Side Walk		Secondary		Main Axis		Entrance/

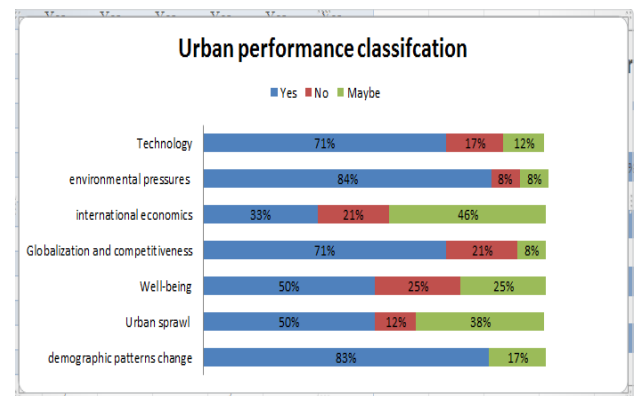**Fig 4: Al-Umma park analysis ref. the research**

Fig 5: Al-Umma park open space ref. the researcher
A-   One aspect of the AL-Umma park on the one hand al-tahreer Square
B-   One aspect of the AL-Umma park on the one hand al-taearan Square
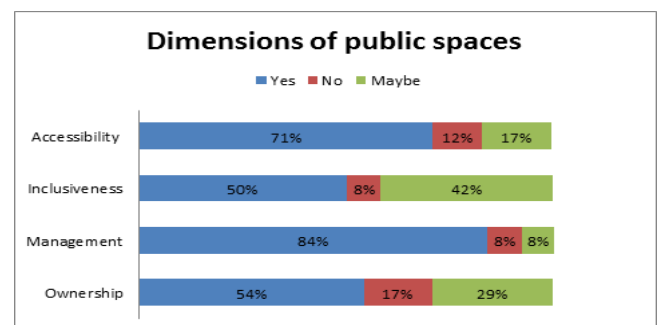
2. Method of Analysis

This research depends on the qualitative analysis method based on numbers of indicators as a selected way of urban performance to achievement the inclusive as a part of urban space that summarized in theoretical frame with included practical method to test the achievement of those indicators through checklist. The questionnaire included a group of specialists in academic institutions in the universities of Iraq from the architectural, urban specialization and specialists in government institutions as a group of Ph.D. holders 59%, the Master 39%, Bachelor 4.8% and the results of the evaluation according to the questionnaire rates as follows:

Urban performance classifications of social performance effected by demographic patterns change, urban sprawl and well-being, economic performance effected by Globalization and competitiveness and international economics, environmental sustainable performance effected by environmental pressures and technology of performance effected by technology. Through the opinions of specialists, it was found that there are indicators that effect on the performance of socially inclusive within urban spaces such as technology, environmental pressures and demographic patterns change of the place. Consequently, more impact on the effectiveness of the urban space of the Alumma Park was in less use of the place than other indicators.
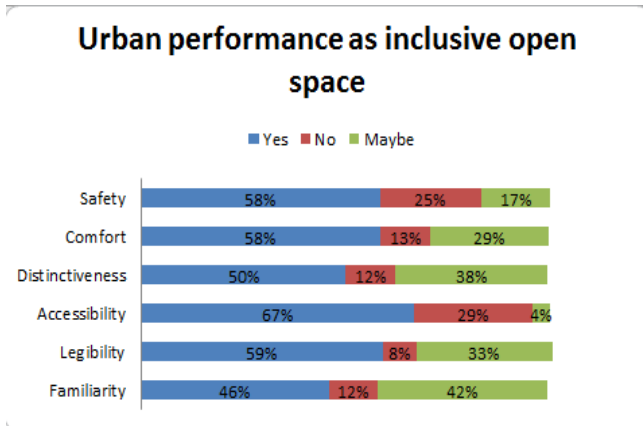

Fig 6: Urban performance classification ref. the researcher

Dimensions of public spaces included Political Economy Perspective affected by ownership and management, Socio-Cultural Perspective Achieves Inclusiveness and Design Perspective Achieves accessibility. And indicator of inclusive open space by assessment achieves it.

Fig 7: Dimensions of public spaces ref. the researcher

Fig 8: Urban performance as inclusive open space ref. the researcher

VI. CONCLUSION

- The research relied to study the assessment of urban performance to achieve the social inclusive within urban space and its relation with space continuance and keeping their function as a common space that achieve the social inclusive .

- The research showed the space have their own urban dimensions through it the urban performance assessment done and also discern through those dimensions have some of inefficiency activity of urban performance to achieve the sign of social inclusive.

- The loss of urban space achievement indicators of social inclusion weaken space and adversely affect its urban performance. The design decisions of the architect or urban designer influence the determination of the effectiveness of the urban performance of public spaces.

- Through a questionnaire that showed the views of specialists found the existence of indicators that affect the inefficiency of the place and the lack of use more such as technology, environmental pressures and demographic patterns change, Which affected the dimensions of urban space in terms of the impact of management on the place and the lack of access to security, clarity and comfort of the place in achieving socially inclusive for all categories of users.

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