

The correlation between physical elements and the level of wayfinding and orientation in cities

ABSTRACT

This study is set up to provide the conceptual framework of legibility in the urban environment particularly in the new urban area of Yazd (Safaieh). In fact, investigating urban environment and its effect on dwellers' spatial cognition is a subtopic under Environment and Behavioral studies. Moreover, this recognition helps to contribute to residents' quality of life and well-being. The significance of the study can be divided into two parts; first, from a view of theoretical aspect, discussion of spatial configuration in urban environments is the initial root to shape human cognitive. The study tries to provide appropriate empirical evidence to support the discussion in the new case. Second, in practice, the application of the study can inform planners and designers to consider different elements that will influence the urban legibility in Yazd city, Iran. The purpose of this study was to understand the relationship between physical elements and psychological aspects by identifying the physical elements that can enhance the people's wayfinding and orientation of the Safaieh neighborhood in Yazd city, Iran. The results clarify the importance of physical elements and psychological aspects to improve the legibility of Safaieh neighborhood in the city of Yazd, Iran. Therefore, it is necessary for planners and designers to have more consideration on the physical elements and psychological aspects to create legible neighborhoods around the world. In order to enhance legibility of Safaieh neighborhood, physical elements of the neighborhood should contribute to wayfinding and orientation.

Keyword: Urban legibility; Wayfinding; Orientation; Landmark; Safaieh neighborhood