

## Studying the relationship between urban neighborhoods' social capital and the participation of people in administering the issues of neighborhood (municipality of the district 14)

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**Abstract:** Using new methods of urban management is one of the requirements of guiding citizens toward the acceptance of responsibility, urban participation and constructive interaction. Nowadays, the degree and quality of citizen's participation in urban management consider as an important measure in developing urban communities, therefore; in this research we will study the relationship between social capital of urban neighborhoods and the participation of people in administering the issues of the neighborhood (municipality of the district 14). Two of the principal hypothesis of this research is as follows: 1-there is a positive relationship between using people participation elements and urban management. 2-there is a positive relationship between social capital element and urban management. The sample study of the above research is people over the age of 18 years who have used the district 14 house neighborhood facilities. Of the used statistical methods, Spearman correlational coefficient test has been used due to the abnormality of distribution of the two variables in the first hypothesis with 99 percent confidence and the obtained results have confirmed the first principal research hypothesis. With the help of the above test the second hypothesis has been confirmed as well.

**Key words:** *Neighborhoods' social capital; Relationship; People in administering the issues of neighborhood*

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### 1. Introduction

Neighborhood as an institution is quite similar to Community or Local Community, in a way that most of the researchers use them almost synonymously (Alavitabar, 1382). Shokoyi (1372) knows Neighborhood as the gathering, attachment, socializing, vicinity and the unofficial relations in a group that forms a unit named Neighborhood. There are different definitions for neighborhood planning that sometimes are looked as monographistic and only one aspect of them is dealt with. While neighborhood planning is a constructive and planned interference that lets communities affect the livelihood of their citizens and have more control, neighborhood development requires the participation of a people that in a matter or problem that affects their life can settle or regulate those problems with the cooperation of each other (Karami, 1386). The goal of people-centered neighborhood planning is to improve the condition of life of the inhabitants of the neighborhood by encouraging its inhabitants to help each other and providing a solution by them to do services and cooperate with each other that eventually lead to the improving of neighborhood conditions (Sarafi, 1383). This kind of planning has so many different aspects that regarding the importance of the cooperation of people in this process, the most important of them is to take a look the social capital

of using the current social capitals in urban neighborhoods (especially the unofficial residency neighborhoods) in order to improve the conditions of that neighborhood.

### 2. The theoretical basics

The rising growth of urbanization dimensions and formulating a new scale of urban growth in the past decades has made city and contemporary urbanism face new challenges as increasing social abnormalities, fading identity and the sense of social belonging, growing social and environmental ecological problems, dramatic social economical inequalities, and as a result the decreasing of the quality of life. Because of this variety of aspects and change in the nature and complexity of urban matters, the necessity of having a wide view and paying attention to the coactioning of matters in order to solve them seem inevitable (Sarafi, 1380; Haji Pour, 1385).

In the theories of Management and urban planning as well, due to the existence of such problems, all efforts are directed towards the using of a strategic-participatory approach that its dominating approaches can be clarified in two intellectual templates of micro and macro:

Focused management, authoritative in a macro-level or from top to bottom.

Collective participation, social mobilization, cooperative planning or from bottom to top.

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The second perspective can lead to discovering and creating of institutional capacities, strengthening local communities, developing strategic-participatory management, mobilizing human resources and decentralization that will eventually cause the improving of management and urban planning. The smallest unit in the system of urban planning, which is the social action and reactions, can be assessed in the form of "neighborhood" with regard to the past experiences and some parts of the developed world. It is obvious that the role that neighborhood played in traditional cities, is quite different to the role that neighborhoods play in the current cities and particularly metropolises. The current cities have been formed in the framework of the specific socio-economic of capitalism-like or the dominant governmental capitalism. Hence, the recognition of the concept of neighborhood and its role in different aspects of urban life and reviewing and adaptation of the system of "base neighborhood" in accordance with the new needs in urban planning and management is one of the urgent matters in applied urban geography, especially in the aspect of urban planning that will have many social and spatial consequences. This research tries to, with attention to different concepts and definitions of neighborhood on the basis of different scientific perspectives, explain the definitions and aspects of this concept to achieve common and general principles in defining it. Furthermore, there will be an over-viewing look at the scientific concepts of the scientific definition of neighborhood in the cities of Iran in order to make the common concepts nearer to the present realities of urbanism and city development in the country according to historical reviews. In this way we will try to answer the following questions:

How can the concept of "community and society" be analyzed in interaction with neighborhood as the basis of research?

How can the concept of space be analyzed as a geographical concept with regard to social matters, and what is its relation to neighborhood and urban place and space?

What features does the concept of neighborhood have in the cities of Iran?

Considering different perspectives and theories of the concept of neighborhood, what are its aspects and elements and features, and how can this concept of normative standpoint standard be defined?

The rising growth of urbanization dimensions in the past decades has made new challenges as fading identity and the sense of social belonging, increasing environmental abnormalities, lack of ecological balance and on the whole the decreasing of the quality of life in the cities. For settling these problems, modern approaches and theories have put the using of participatory guidelines, social mobilization and planning from bottom to top in core focus. The realization of this approach requires defining a new system of space divisions in the framework of the hierarchy of the management and

planning of the cities that on the basis of the experiences of traditional management, the neighborhood can be considered the basic element and basis of this kind of planning because of having such theoretical and applied values. At first, for providing a theoretical framework, the paradigm of sustainable development was defined as the foundation of this theory, and the theory of social capital was assigned in a social aspect and was put as the centerpiece of action in order to achieve a framework for the structure of sustainable neighborhood. According to this pattern, the social aspect is the basis of social justice-oriented, participatory and reliable development at the level of urban neighborhoods. (Abdollahi, 1392)

Basically, to do various activities there is a need for a capital that based on it we can tie the predefined plans to the set goals and aims. Living in the society also has its own special demands and citizens can make the common affairs of theirs by communication and positive interaction.

A set of networks with the role of intermediary and connector share their common values with the rest of the members of the network. Sorting out different kind of accessible capitals talks of the attention paid to the concept of social capital. Social capital is a set of norms, networks, and organizations that people gain some power and abilities through them, that makes them able to decide and edit policies. According to this idea, participating in social groups has some useful outcomes for individuals and the society and provides the necessary backgrounds for activating different stratum and creating tremendous capacities in them. Dirkem in his book, *About Dividing Social Work*, talks about the effect of the ethical power of groups for preventing individual selfishness and creating common integration among the members. Perhaps two main reasons that have made the discussion of social capital such important are, first, its emphasis on the positive outcomes of sociability, and second, putting the positive outcomes of social capital in the framework of the discussion of capital and paying heed to this matter that how the non-monetary forms like power, influence and communicational networks can act as the belongings and bank accounts of individuals. (Firouzabadi and Imani Jajrami, 1385)

With regard to the concept of social capital, development can be known as the enrichment of the social interactions resulting from the increasing willingness of cooperation and social trust. Henceforward, transition to development is plausible through creating institutions, valuing balances, beliefs and norms, and constructive and encouraging structures. (Tashakor and Moieni, 1381)

### 3. Research method

The basic of any science is the knowledge of it and the value and credibility of scientific laws in cognitive method is based on how it is used in that science. If the methodology deviates from its correct

path, no doubt the results will lead the researcher and users astray. With regard to this matter, adopting a rational method with scientific merit and realistic order is necessary to achieve the desired results. In general, it can be said that research method is a set of rules, tools and reliable and ordered methods in order to study realities, discover the unknown and find solutions to the problems (Khaki, 1387).

Research method in different sciences can be divided according to 2 important factors: a) research aim, b) ways of collecting data, research classification based on their types of aims does not necessarily mean that there are exact and definite boundaries between different types of research but most of these studies are in the same line and have a conceptual dependency. As an example, basic research is fundamental to applied research. In general, basic research discovers scientific laws and attempts to develop a set of present knowledge about those scientific laws. While applied research is that kind of research which uses theories, principles and techniques developed in basic research for solving administrative problems.(Khaki, 1387: 201). On this basis, this research from the applied aim and data collection method is a correlational descriptive research explained in the following:

**3.1. Applied research**

The aim of the applied research is to acquire the sufficient knowledge or understanding for a tool by which a special and known need will fulfill. In these kinds of research the aim is to discover a new knowledge that follows a proper usage about a product or a process in reality.(Khaki, 1388:94)

**3. 2. Descriptive research**

Descriptive research describes and interprets what exists and focuses on present situation and terms, common opinions, current processes, evident works or expanding trends (Khaki, 1388:104). Some consider descriptive research to include:

- 1) Survey Research
- 2) Correlational Research
- 3) Action research
- 4) Case Study
- 5) Ex-Post Facto Research

About correlational research being one of the descriptive research kinds we can say that it analyzes the relationship among variables based on

the research aim. The correlational relationship exists when changes to on variable goes with changes to the other variable. (Sekaran, 1388)

The primary objective in correlational research is to determine whether or not there is a relationship between two or more quantitative variables and if yes how much is that relationship? In this type of research, some of the variables perceived to be connected to one complex variable are evaluated and those variables specified not to have much correlation will be omitted and will not be taken into consideration and about variables which there are more correlation, causal experimental comparative studies will be done.(Khaki, 1388), therefore, because the aim of the present research is to determine experimental relationship in the context of the relationship between comprehensive quality management and marketing and business performance, it is of correlational type in terms of operational aim and data collection method.

**4. Data collection method**

There are different sources for collecting data and there also are different methods that are selected based on the aim and type of research, research subject and statistical population characteristics.in general, data collection methods are divided into two categories:

- A) Direct methods: such as observation, interview, questionnaire, etc.
- B) Indirect methods: like using documents

A research should make use of both methods, that is, it should both regard and analyze the phenomenon directly and explore them with the help of data collected by others (books and documents etc.) (Sarokhani, 1381). Data and information concerned in this research divided into two categories, the first category is related to thematic literature and the conducted studies in the relevant field.in this regard, the researcher collect, review and compile the theoretical part and research literature with reference to library resources, such as books, research center publications, academic theses, related research dissertations and Latin articles. The second category is related to research variables and hypotheses data which in addition to literature sources it is collected by means of questionnaire. This questionnaire contains 27questions in 3 sections as following:

**Table 1:** Research variables

independent variables	9 questions	Question number 1 to 9
Human capital		3 questions
People participation		3 questions
dependent variable	10 questions	Question number 10 to 27
People participation in administering urban affairs		

In this study the variables are measured by using score 5 questions in Likert scale (5 means I totally agree and 1 means I totally disagree)

**5. Data collection tool validity**

Validity is a term that is a fundamental cause for effectiveness of data collection methods and that term is called data collection methods or tools by which specify the same topics planned for their topic specification. (Pasha Sharifi et al., 1383). In other words, validity means the measurement tool for the intended objective, that is measuring the research variable, show required efficiency; validity requires that the research tool measure the same variable the researcher intends to measure (Haman, 100).

In the present study questionnaire has been used as a measurement tool. Therefore, since the questionnaires used by standard questionnaires had been international, they have been confirmed by many researchers and management science experts and marketing in international level. So its validity can be confirmed.

**5.1. Data collection tool reliability**

One of the necessary requirements for the test to be a secure tool with regard to predicting and measuring our variable is to be reliable, credible and stable, that is, the same test should always produce the same results. Thus, test reliability is a scale by which determines the degree of trust to the acquired results of the test. Reliability is quality, stability and trusts that method or tool of gathering data shows over time. There are different ways of calculating reliability coefficient. The most important of them are as follows:

Replicating the test, equalization, split-half, Kuder-Richardson formula, Cronbach alpha scale formula.(Momeni and Qiomi, 1389) in the present study Cronbach’s alpha method is used which is calculated as follows:

$$\alpha = \left( \frac{n}{n-1} \right) \times \left( 1 - \frac{\sum S_i^2}{S_t^2} \right)$$

Cronbach’s alpha coefficient regards as a good indication for the internal credibility and coordination (Sekaran, 1388). In this method, if the alpha’s coefficient is less than 60/0, its credibility will usually consider weak. The range of 70/0 is acceptable and more than 80/0 considers good.(Haman, 385)

In this study Cronbach’s alpha coefficient has been calculated by SPSS software. The stated questionnaire contains 27 questions in which its obtained numbers from research variables of Cronbach’s alpha are as Tables 2 and 3:

**Table 2:** Total Cronbach alpha coefficients

Alpha coefficient	The total number of questions
.925	27

**Table 3:** Partial Cronbach alpha coefficients

ردیف سؤال	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	نسب Cronbach
q1	98.9650	213.340	.923
q2	98.9250	209.215	.921
q3	98.9750	216.989	.925
q4	98.8700	213.380	.923
q5	98.8350	211.324	.922
q6	98.9150	216.058	.924
q7	98.8100	217.381	.924
q8	98.9600	208.762	.921
q9	98.8550	213.311	.923
q10	98.8300	207.971	.922
q11	98.8650	213.022	.923
q12	98.9850	210.568	.922
q13	98.8900	212.350	.923
q14	98.9200	212.345	.923
q15	98.8350	213.123	.923
q16	98.8450	209.569	.922
q17	98.9300	211.070	.922
q18	98.8750	214.351	.924
q19	98.7550	207.834	.921
q20	99.0050	214.779	.924
q21	98.7750	213.030	.923
q22	99.0450	209.320	.922
q23	98.8550	212.848	.922
q24	98.9600	213.606	.923
q25	98.9050	211.172	.923
q26	98.7550	209.904	.922
q27	98.5700	211.734	.925

The results of Cronbach alpha coefficient show the ideal reliability of questionnaires of the study.

**5.2. Respondent's gender**

It is observed based on the presented Table and Fig. that from 300 selected samples 124 people are women (41.3 percent) and 176 people are men (58.7 percent). The results are shown in Table 4 and Fig. 1

**Table 4:** Frequency distribution and respondent’s gender percentage

Cumulative frequency	Valid values percentage	percentage	frequency		
41.3	41.3	41.3	124	woman	Valid data
100.0	58.7	58.7	176	man	
	100.0	100.0	700	total	
		0	0	system	Invalid data
		100.0	300		Total sum

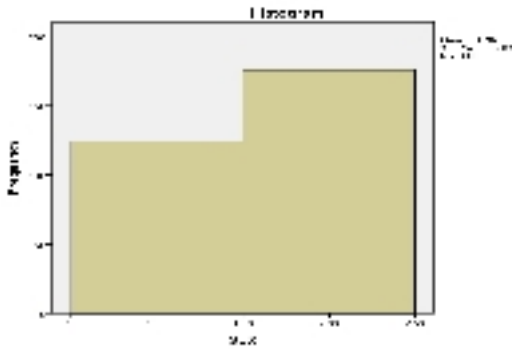


Fig. 1: Respondents' gender histogram

### 5.3. Respondent's age

It is observed based on the presented Table and Fig. that from 300 selected sample 211 people were between ages of 20 to 40 (70.3 percent); 74 people (24.7 percent) between ages of 40 to 50; 12 people (4 percent) between ages of 50 to 60 and 3 people (1 percent) were over 60 years. The results are shown in Table 5 and Fig. 2.

Table 5: Frequency distribution and respondent's age percentage

Cumulative frequency	Valid values percentage	percentage	frequency		Valid data
70.3	70.3	70.3	211	20 to 40 years	
95.0	24.7	24.7	74	40 to 50 years	
99.0	4.0	4.0	12	50 to 60 years	
100.0	1.0	1.0	3	Over 60 years	
	100.0	100.0	300	Total sum	

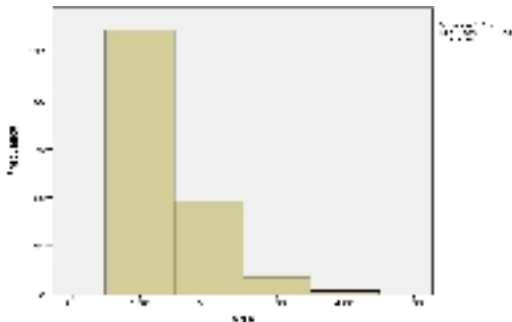


Fig. 2: Respondents' age histogram

### 5.4. Respondents' level of education

It is observed based on the presented Table and Fig. that from 300 selected sample 84 people hold (28 percent) associate degree; 157 people (52.3 percent) Bachelor of Arts; 45 people (15 percent) Master of Arts and 14 people PhDs. The results are shown in Table 6 and Fig. 3.

Table 6: Frequency distribution and respondents' level of education percentage

Cumulative percentage	Valid values percentage	percentage	frequency		Valid data
28.0	28.0	28.0	84	Associate degree	
80.3	52.3	52.3	157	BA	
95.3	15.0	15.0	45	MA	
100.0	4.7	4.7	14	PhD	
	100.0	100.0	300	Total sum	

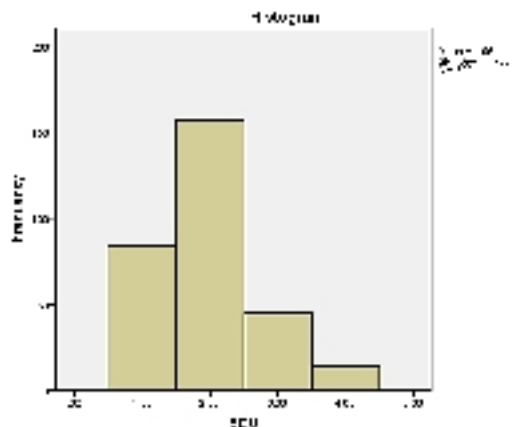


Fig. 3: Respondents' level of education histogram

According to the Table 7 the minimum number of urban management variable is 2.10 and the maximum number is 5.00, mean 3.72, standard deviation 0.60 and variance is 0.365.

### 6.2. People participation variable description

According to the Table 8 the minimum number of perceived benefits is 1, 6, the maximum number 5, 00, mean 3, 72, standard deviation 0, 68 and variance is 0, 46.

### 6.3. Social capitals variable description

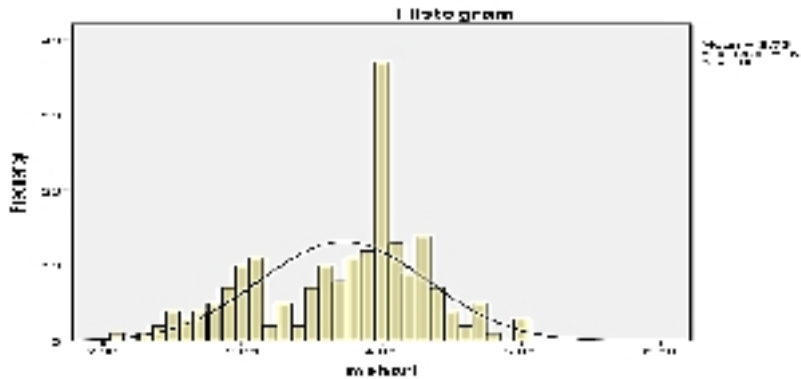
According to the Table 9 the minimum number of perceived benefits is 2, 33, the maximum number 5, 00, mean 3, 75, standard deviation 0,62 and variance is 0,39.

## 6. Research variables description

### 6.1. Urban management variable description (solutions, policies and institutions)

**Table 7:** Urban management variable description

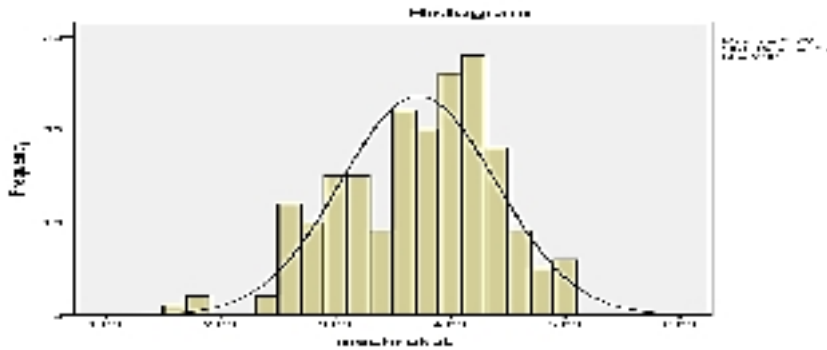
variance	Standard deviation	mean	maximum	Minimum	number	
.365	.60394	3.7260	5,00	2.10	300	Urban management



**Fig. 4:** Urban management variable histogram

**Table 8:** People participation variable description

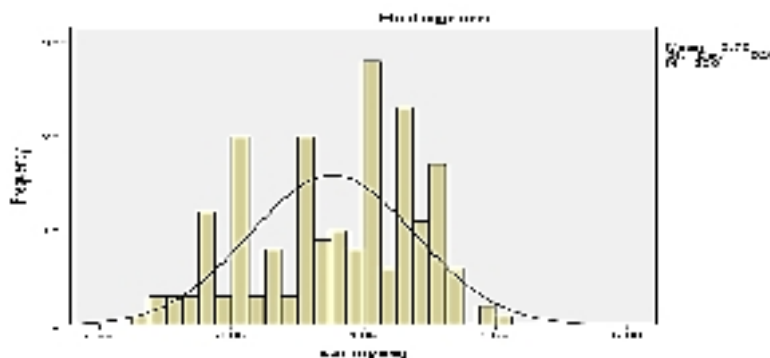
variance	Standard deviation	mean	Maximum	minimum	number	
0,46	0,68	3,72	5,00	1,6	300	People participation



**Fig. 5:** people participation histogram

**Table 9:** Social capitals variable description

variance	Standard deviation	mean	maximum	minimum	number	
0,39	0,62	3,76	5,00	2,33	300	Social capitals



**Fig. 5:** Perceived benefits variable histogram

## 7. Research principal hypotheses

### 7. 1. Hypothesis 1

There is a positive relationship between using people participation components and urban management.

H0: There is no positive relationship between using urban management components and people participation.

H1: There is a positive relationship between using urban management components and people participation.

**Table 10:** Correlation coefficient between using urban management and people participation

		Urban management	People participation
Urban management	Spearman correlation coefficient	1	0.604**
	The level of significance		0.000
	number	300	300
People participation	Spearman correlation coefficient	0.604**	1
	The level of significance	0.000	
	number	300	300

\*\* correlation coefficient is significant in the level of 0.01 (two tailed)

variables	number	Degree of correlation coefficient	The level of significance	result
People participation	300	60 percent	0.00	Hypothesis confirmation

Because both variables in the sample are not normally distributed we use Spearman correlation coefficient for testing this hypothesis. It is observed according to the Table that the level of significance is smaller than 0.01. thus, we can claim with 99 percent certainty that the research hypothesis is confirmed and the relationship is significance. it is also can be said that according to the Table the correlational intensity between the two variables used in urban management and its effective component is +61 percent which represents the direct relationship between the two variables. On the other hand the coefficient of determination between the two

variables is equal to 66 percent by which it would explain using urban management in terms of known factors.

### 7.2. Hypothesis 2

There is a positive relationship between social capital and urban management.

H0: There is no positive relationship between social capital and urban management.

H1: There is a positive relationship between social capital and urban management.

**Table 11:** correlation coefficient between using urban management and people participation

		Urban management	People participation
Urban management	Spearman correlation coefficient	1	0.613**
	The level of significance		0.000
	number	300	300
Social capital	Spearman correlation coefficient	0.613**	1
	The level of significance	0.000	
	number	300	300

\*\* correlation coefficient is significant in the level of 0.01 (two tailed)

variables	number	Degree of correlation coefficient	The level of significance	result
Social capital	300	60 percent	0.00	Hypothesis confirmation

Because both variables in the sample are not normally distributed we use Spearman correlation coefficient for testing this hypothesis. It is observed according to the Table that the level of significance is smaller than 0.01. thus, we can claim with 99 percent certainty that the research hypothesis is confirmed and the relationship is significance. it is also can be said that according to the Table the correlational

intensity between the two variables used in social capital and its effective component is +61 percent which represents the direct relationship between the two variables. On the other hand, the coefficient of determination between the two variables is equal to 68 percent by which it would explain using urban management in terms of known factors.

## 8. Summary of findings

From 300 selected sample 124 people are women (41.3 percent) and 176 people are men (58.7 percent). from 300 selected sample 211 people were between ages of 20 to 40 (70.3 percent); 74 people (24.7 percent) between ages of 40 to 50; 12 people (4 percent) between ages of 50 to 60 and 3 people (1 percent) were over 60 years.

From 300 selected samples 84 people hold (28 percent) associate degree; 157 people (52.3 percent) Bachelor of Arts; 45 people (15 percent) Master of Arts and 14 people PhDs.

The minimum number of urban management variable is 2.10 and the maximum number is 5.00, mean 3.72, standard deviation 0.60 and variance is 0.365.

The minimum number of perceived benefits is 1, 6, the maximum number 5,00, mean 3,72, standard deviation 0,68 and variance is 0,46.

It is observed that the minimum number of perceived benefits is 2, 33, the maximum number 5, 00, mean 3, 75, standard deviation 0,62 and variance is 0,39.

None of the three variables have normal distribution (level of significance greater than 05/0). Therefore, in the related hypothesis test we should study the relationship between those two variables by non-parametric Spearman correlation coefficient test.

Because both variables in the sample are not normally distributed we use Spearman correlation coefficient for testing hypothesis from the fact that there is a significant relationship between using people participation components and urban management. The degree of calculated level of significance is smaller than 0.01. Thus, we can claim with 99 percent certainty that the research hypothesis is confirmed and the relationship is significance. it is also can be said that the correlational intensity between the two variables used in urban management and its effective component is +61 percent which represents the direct relationship between the two variables. On the other hand the coefficient of determination between the two variables is equal to 66 percent by which it would explain using urban management in terms of known factors. Because both variables in the sample are not normally distributed we use Spearman correlation coefficient for testing hypothesis from the fact that there is a significant relationship between social capital and urban management. The degree of calculated level of significance is smaller than 0.01. Thus, we can claim with 99 percent certainty that the research hypothesis is confirmed and the relationship is significance. It is also can be said that the correlational intensity between the two variables used in social capital and its effective component is +61 percent which represents the direct relationship between the two variables. On the other hand the coefficient of determination between the two variables is equal to 68 percent by which it

would explain using urban management in terms of known factors.

Because hypothesis number one is confirmed in terms of the existence of significant relationship between using people participation components and urban management and also hypothesis number two is confirmed in terms of the existence of significant relationship between social capital and urban management, the municipal managers of district 14 are in need of using people participation and social capital in term of urban management for their managing affairs.

The results of the study shows that research subsidiary hypotheses include:

-There is a positive relationship between the degree of presence in the neighborhood and the tendency toward participating in administering issues of the neighborhood.

- There is a positive relationship between the degree of cooperation in the neighborhood and the tendency toward participating in administering issues of the neighborhood.

- There is a positive relationship between the degree of neighborhood's solidarity and dependency and the tendency toward participating in administering the issues of the neighborhood.

-There is a positive relationship between the degree of trust among people of the neighborhood and the tendency toward participating in administering issues of the neighborhood.

- There is a positive relationship between pursuing neighborhood urban plans and the tendency toward participating in administering issues of the neighborhood.

## 9. Suggestions

the terms such as informal socialization (visits), social networks leverage (indicating the types of formed relationships between individuals) and active participation in undertaking social activities that can lead to creating cooperation, mutual teamwork and empathy among residents consider as an altered state in the modern urban neighborhoods. The way of life in present day's neighborhoods causes interaction between neighbors and even discussion for resolving problems to reduce. Therefore, the close relationships existed in traditional neighborhoods due to social relationships are less visible in today's urbanity system due to future and common needs and also a kind of alienation exists in relationships of the individuals. All these conditions caused the sense of belonging to the neighborhood as a living place with social approach to reduce and their social components as well to diminish structurally. The existence of such defects and essentialities for living in cities with attention to small clubs brings cooperative planning, social mobilization, and collective participation in achieving the optimal pattern of neighborhood's sustainable development into focus.

Today's urban and social reality has formed new relationships and structures that needs to explore



new definition and scope for it and at the same time practice designing and organizing relationships and their adapted space. Those kind of structures and spaces that meet with today's needs, facilities and demands. What is considered as connection link and remover of structural rigidity in neighborhood's social dimension is the struggle to convert neighborhood into a public place with local communities' features and to create a social necessity as a common destiny. That can provide a background for social solidarity and trust among residents. Based on defined methodology and theoretical framework, we tried to assess and estimate the determined variables and criteria for the stability of neighborhood in Tehran. Thus, within the framework of aforementioned issues and reflected social changes perhaps the strictest dimensional requirement of neighborhood's sustainable development is to encourage social capital and participation in the form of traditional Iranian Islamic neighborhood experiences. In this regard, the following suggestions are offered.

Creating special places for conversation and social interactions in the form of local hangouts, friendly clubs in the neighborhood or park of the neighborhood.

Establishing neighborhood's volunteer groups in various social, civil and services fields.

Empowering urban neighborhoods residents and educating citizenship's rights and duties

The legal and social infrastructure in terms of building institutions for the participation of citizens in the process of performing social, civil and services plans in the neighborhood, the neighborhood's mayor, the neighborhood's firefighter, etc

Building capacity to fulfill the needs of specific social groups especially, women, the elderly and children in the neighborhood

Creating background for the promotion of the sense of social belonging toward neighborhood and its surrounding in the form of available social and religious institutions such as religious agencies and NGOs.

Holding social and cultural festivals in the level of neighborhood and among neighborhoods of the city with the aim of creating social interaction and social and citizenship rings.

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