

Source of Privacy Perception in Low Income Apartments in Iran

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Abstract: Privacy can be considered as a basic need of human. This is why it has been a subject of many studies and discussions since 1890. In this study respondents were asked about source of their privacy perceptions in their apartment unit. About 300 respondents from three low income residential complexes in Shiraz-Iran participate in the survey. Results show that Family train was the most important aspect and personal desire was the least important source of privacy perception. Maintaining the social aspect and religious belief had a rate after family train and also lots of respondents claim that all items are effective as source of privacy perception and they complement each other.

Key words: Privacy • Apartment • Source of perception • Low income

INTRODUCTION

Privacy can be considered as a basic need of human. This is why it has been a subject of many studies and discussions since 1890. Peter Toohey believes that privacy or the loss of privacy have been present for a long time in discussions of people, which was started at least from the age of the ancient Rome [1].

How the privacy is defined is dependent on how the people of one community feel about this concept. Presence of strong values and principles in culture of a society results in differentiation of the meaning of privacy in this community [2]. It should be noted that the privacy is described differently in different communities. He explained that the definition of privacy in a certain society could not be applied to another society, unless they have the same cultural principles and values.

Based on the studies conducted by Esser and Greenbie, globally in all cultures, house is considered normally as a place of privacy and this private place is recognized as an essential requirement to live within the house. However, the issue of privacy and its importance vary largely from one culture to another [3].

Ramezani and Hamidi considered the privacy as an inherent characteristic of the culture of Iran and they argued that this issue is completely apparent in form of

traditional towns of Iran. One of the most popular features of Iranian traditional architecture is emphasizing the interior parts of the houses. On the other hand, privacy in this culture has not led to isolation; in Iran, social contacts are greatly important [4].

This study investigate source of privacy perceptions which categorized in four main groups (maintaining the social aspects, religious beliefs, personal desire and family train) among low income residents in Shiraz-Iran.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

In order to confine the research to a manageable size, attention was focused on a sample of apartments from an identified and defined population from certain areas of Shiraz, the cultural capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus these areas were used as a case study. The case study was designed and directed on low income apartments groups related to three different decades. Residents of this type of housing were selected for the samples. Controlling socio-economic characteristics of the population, this investigation selected samples from comparable groups of people, in the same socio-economic stratum. Also to avoid errors relating to length of time inhabiting the present residence, all respondents were chosen from residents who had lived in the unit for at least six months.



Fig. 1: Survey residential complexes

All residents in this investigation are from low-income families which is the socio-economic group that largely occupies these units in Shiraz. Although not a specific part of the research agenda, most of the sample of respondents turned out to be intact husband and wife families. The size and nature of the family was also controlled and formed part of the characteristics used in the analysis. According to Cochran formula and also lin table a sample size of 400 (which is large enough to draw significant inferences from the data) was chosen for the questionnaires and distributed according the population size of each sample area and comprising 92 residents in Artesh complex related to 1950 decades, 142 residents in Modares complex related to 1970 decades and 166 residents in Zamzam complex related to 1995 decades. Stratified random sampling of households within each specific complex in three suburbs was selected as the method of choosing the households. Where a resident of a selected household refused to be interviewed or they had lived in the unit for less than six months, the interviewer selected the household in the adjacent unit.

Demographics and Characteristics of the Samples:

According to the results, 35.5% of respondents in Modras Complex, 41.5 % of respondents in Zamzam Complex and 23% of respondents have been living in Artesh complex. About half of the respondents are male and another half are female. The majority of them (81.53 %) are married. Also, nearly all of them (99.49 %) are Muslim. three members' families (35.73%) and four members families (31.86%) had the highest prevalence. the majority of participants were father (36.22%) and mother (40.82%) of the family.

According to table 5.7 respondents with a diploma in education have the highest frequency (40.85%), education at the bachelor level (21.55%), under diploma (18.05%), the upper diploma (16.29%) and PhD (0.25%) were,

respectively, in the next ranks. majority of them were employee (34.95%) and house keeper (34.69%). Nearly half of them (51.91%) live in rental units and 31.30% of them live in their own house. the mean age of males was 34.88 years old and female's mean age was 33.37 years old. The average age of respondents was 34.1 years old. Also the mean of respondents' residence time was 3.85 years.

RESULT

To investigate the meaning and importance of privacy reflected which beliefs of the respondents, a frequency of their response to the question in the form of four options (family train, maintaining of social aspects, religious beliefs and personal desire) were studied. Table 5.13 shows the results of this analysis. Referring to the table, 29.82 % of respondents were mentioned that family train as their main attention to the meaning and importance of the privacy. 26.48 % are due to the desire to maintain social aspects, 25.96 % said religious beliefs and 17.74% were expressed personal desire.

The respondents also added these statements in the open ended question which asked them to add other source of privacy perception:

Family train consist of religious belief and maintaining social aspects and also personal desire is always along with the person so it is better to say all above

- Education, respect to husband
- All the items are effective and they complete each other
- Importance of family
- Scientific beliefs
- Feeling calmness
- Family conditions

- Need to have mental security
- Personal beliefs
- Moral and human scales away from social traditions
- Training the culture

Table 2 shows Cronbach's alpha coefficient for internal reliability of questions related to privacy sources (family train, maintaining social aspects, religious beliefs and personal desire). Coefficient alpha for the questions mentioned were 0.7, which is considered acceptable coefficient due to given the small number of questions.

To investigate among the various sources on the importance of privacy on which factors have more influence, has used repeated measure test to compare means between these factors. Table 3 shows means of the factors respectively, from top to bottom. According to the results, family train, maintaining social aspects, religious beliefs and personal desire have the highest influence on the importance of sense of privacy.

To investigate whether there are significant differences between male and female respondents about the importance of the effective factors, independent sample t test was used. According to table 4 there is no significant difference between men and women about the importance of factors affecting the meaning of privacy. In other words, men and women respondents evaluated the importance of effective factors equally.

To investigate whether there are significant differences between single and married respondents on the importance of the effective factors, independent sample t test was used. According to table 5 there is no significant difference between single and married respondents in family train and personal desire. However, maintaining of social aspects and religious beliefs of the married respondents were significantly more important and has more impact on the meaning and importance of their privacy.

Table 1: Source of privacy perception

Question	Answer	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Your attention on the meaning and amount of importance of personal space and privacy is a reflection of what beliefs?	Family train	116	29.82	29.82
	Maintaining social aspects	103	26.48	56.30
	Religious beliefs	101	25.96	82.26
	Personal desire	69	17.74	100
	Total	389	100	

Table 2: Cronbach's alpha coefficient

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items	N of Cases
Q49b1 to q49b4	0.7	4	385

Table 3: Source of privacy perception

Factor	Mean	Std. Deviation	N of Cases
Family Train	5.05	0.98	385
Maintaining Social Aspects	5.01	0.94	385
Religious Beliefs	4.87	1.15	385
Personal Desire	4.84	1.16	385

In order to examine the relationship between respondents' age with various sources which influence on the importance and meaning of privacy (family train, maintaining of social aspects, religious belief and personal desire) the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results of this analysis are seen in Table 6. According to the results the age of the respondents had a significant negative relationship with the personal desire dimension. In other words, the personal desire among the younger respondents was more important. Age of the respondents had no significant relationship with the other sources that affect the meaning of privacy.

Table 4: Importance of factors affecting the meaning of privacy between men and women

Dependent Variable	Gender	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	T	Df	Sig.
Family train	Female	209	5.02	1.00	-0.44	395.00	0.66
	Male	188	5.06	1.01			
Maintaining social aspects	Female	206	4.98	0.94	-0.19	389.00	0.85
	Male	185	4.99	1.00			
Religious beliefs	Female	208	4.84	1.11	-0.43	391.00	0.67
	Male	185	4.89	1.22			
Personal desire	Female	204	4.82	1.22	-0.44	387.00	0.66
	Male	185	4.87	1.08			

Table 5: Importance of factors affecting the meaning of privacy between single and married

Dependent variable	Marital status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T	Df	Sig.
Family train	Married	307	5.09	0.97	1.91	89	0.06
	Single	69	4.80	1.20			
Maintaining social aspects	Married	302	5.09	0.91	3.42	89	0.001
	Single	69	4.59	1.13			
Religious beliefs	Married	304	4.99	1.07	4.20	87	0.00
	Single	69	4.25	1.39			
Personal desire	Married	302	4.84	1.15	-0.37	367	0.71
	Single	67	4.90	1.20			

Table 6: Relationship between respondents' age and various sources of privacy perception

Variable	Pearson Correlation	Sig.	N
Family train	0.01	0.85	380
Maintaining social aspects	0.05	0.38	374
Religious beliefs	0.08	0.11	376
Personal desire	-0.14	0.01	372

Table 7: Relationship between respondents' education level and various sources of privacy perception

Variable	Pearson Correlation	Sig.	N
Family train	-0.05	0.37	396
Maintaining social aspects	0.02	0.69	390
Religious beliefs	-0.08	0.09	392
Personal desire	0.16	0.002	388

In order to examine the relationship between education level of respondents with the various sources which influence on the importance and meaning of privacy the Pearson correlation coefficient was used. The results of this analysis are seen in Table 7. According to the results, education level of respondents had a significant positive relationship with the personal desire. In other words, the personal desire among the respondents with higher education was more important. Respondents' education level had no significant relationship with the other resources that affect the meaning of privacy.

According to the results of the respondents living in different residential complexes, there is no significant difference in these dimension among the respondents.

CONCLUSION

To investigate that meaning and importance of privacy reflect which belief of respondents, four sources was evaluated which were family train, maintaining of social aspects, religious beliefs and personal desire.

Family train was the most important aspect and personal desire was the least important source. The reason might be because in Iranian households, training about significance of privacy happens from primitive stage of children's life. Maintaining the social aspect and religious belief had a rate after family train and also lots of respondents claim that all items are effective as source of privacy perception and they complement each other. It is because all four sources related and complement each other. In another approach when we compare the means of each source of privacy perception we can achieve that family train and maintaining social aspects have equal effect and also religious belief and personal desire have the same effect on perceptions of privacy.

There was no significant difference between male and female respondents about the source of privacy perception. There is no significant difference between single and married respondents in family train and personal desire; however maintaining of social aspects and religious beliefs of the marriage respondents were significantly more important and has more impact on the meaning and importance of their perception of privacy.

There is no significant relationship between role in the family (father, mother...) with family train and personal desire. It is because people with different roles have attached equal importance to family train and personal desire. Maintaining the social aspects and religious beliefs for both father and mother had more importance in comparison with the children because they have more maturity and there is no significant difference between fathers and mothers of this matter.

Education level of respondents had a significant positive relationship with the personal desire. In other words, the personal desire among the respondents with higher education was more important because level of education as an external variable might effect on significance of privacy values.

There is no significant difference between respondents which living in different residential complexes (Modares, Zamzam and Artesh) about effective sources of privacy perception. It might be because they are from the same group in the society.

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