

Effects of Designing a Photo Park-Museum and a Rehabilitation Center of Exceptional Children on Their Social Acceptance and Revival of Traditional Medicine

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Abstract- Physical and movement disabilities have plagued most countries across the world. All countries have, proportionate to their capacities and facilities, made developments in their architecture and urban development program to rehabilitate the disable and to return them to the immense body of society. The present study aimed to investigate the effects of putting the disabled and healthy children alongside each other to help promote social interactions, remove the psychological and physical superiority of healthy children, and disseminate traditional medicine within the context of society through children in the heart of families. The research method is descriptive-analytical and the instruments for data collection include a field survey, observation, semi-structured interview and questionnaire. The answers were evaluated by Likert scale. The examined findings were divided into three groups 1) identifying the type of land use along the therapeutic center 2) the quality of giving life to the space and 3) correcting the culture of accepting the disabled and reviving traditional medicine. In the end, with simple solutions, the knot can be united from the lack of well-being of the users and the lack of stability of the former physical body. From the therapeutic space can achieved to the educational and recreational space.

Keywords- disability, rehabilitation, photo museum, park, social interactions, traditional medicine

1. Introduction

Countries around the world, including Iran, have taken measures to establish therapeutic centers and facilities for their disabled citizens; however, according to the studies conducted in this area, there are some deficiencies with the physical fabric and adjacent sites, which have prevented access to healthcare for people. Therefore, in addition to making centers more effective, it is important to pay attention to users, also. This is because centers should not only deal with physical dimensions but also support the psychological dimensions of the disabled. Because with two treated wings, they are able to fly and find independence.

If making suitable condition does not happen on time for these disable minors. So despite of spending time and financial constraints, this phenomenon turns them into weaker and unsociable creatures. The reason for the importance of preventing these disabled people from leaving the participation circle is that if they do not reach a level of self-protection and mental prosperity. In addition to being removed from

the per capita cycle of useful human resources of society (generally), they become consumerist and isolated citizens and a burden on their facilities until the last moments of their lives (personally).

Now the study questions are 1) what are the qualities of integrating several land uses in a site? 2) What are the qualities of rehabilitation centers in the adjacency of photo park museums? 3) How do these qualities affect mental development, promote self-belief and dealing with low-esteem among disable children? 4) How do space of this kind affect the changing communication and behavioral culture with the disable, the two-way acceptance and therapeutic tendencies through traditional medicine? 5) How can a therapeutic space be transformed into a training site and vise verse training and recreational space (photo park-museum) be turned into a therapeutic space?

Based on the study, designing such places (centers) can have a considerable impact on the physical and psychological characteristics of retarded children, blooming the hidden talents, when interacting with healthy children; these impacts could change the cultural views of healthy children and people about

the fear of making friends with and investment on disabled people, and hence promote tendencies to green treatment and traditional medicine, instead of clinical medicine.

One of the common problem which disseminated by prioritizing quantity and plurality in building typology is the single –functional forms. The meaning of flexibility of functions is that there should be the possibility of using space at different times for different functions. Flexibility also denotes the flexibility of functions where in one single space several functions are made possible. The goal of this is to create freedom of choice for children (Shafaei & Madani, 2010).

This study aimed to integrate isolated fragments of physical spaces with different land uses and different health effects into one single place, finally making them function as a coherent unit. This integration helps improve the physical and psychological health of the disabled and promotes their social acceptance from the view of the majority of society, i.e., healthy people.

At a disabled children's rehabilitation center, a set of medical, training, professional, and social services and measures are provided to help recover their physical, mental, social, and professional capacities and to help promote their effectiveness to the highest level possible. These services are usually offered to provide the disabled with an independent life. Recently, in addition to the mentally retarded person, the social environment where s/he lives in is also focused, on because a social place largely determines the consequences of disability and retardation (A'zam Panah, Nazanin, 2015).

One of the controversial challenges is society's cultural poverty for accepting physically improved children. There is an urgent need for changing insights at the micro and macro-level of society, and it is required to identify and change the old embedded culture in society by establishing park museums.

It should be borne in mind that we do not build a museum to attract tourists nor to represent our past and identity; rather, museums are built to promote society's cultural levels. That said, a museum is not a place whose principal function is to earn revenue or fill leisure time, rather it functions to flourish, protect, and introduce cultural identity (Tabatabaei, 2010).

Now, after taking measures to get together the above-mentioned two functions (Rehabilitation center and museum), the main problem is the inability to get the two generations (i.e., exceptional and healthy children) to face each other. Hence, to raise the interactions between these two groups, and to promote their acceptance of each other in daily

activities, it is required to establish a pause space as a bridge between a rehabilitation center and a photo museum called park.

Creating a space like this (park) in cities for public recreation is the most commonplace way of making recreation centers. In essence, the nature of these spaces allows all groups of people to use them. In other words, intra-city parks are made for public rest and recreation. In public parks, all entertainment and welfare amenities are available for all sorts of tastes, thinking, and ages (Ashraf-Karim & Shohani, 2014).

If we improve our vision, another concern is to get all people to respect and give a social status to disabled people. To remove this social gap, it is required to establish an urban element to prevent all citizens and tourists from violating the rights of the disabled.

The role of symbols and signs in buildings and urban spaces is so important that they can affect the lives of residents from various angles and form their behaviors. Urban symbols and patterns have always been focused as signs signifying the insights and thinking governing cities. If these signs will be selected meticulously, they can play the role of public media, and even raise the awareness of visitors (Sarami, 2015).

An integrated environmental design aims to alleviate the previous shortcomings by 1) promoting the psychological health of disabled children who seek physical health at rehabilitation centers (this is done by providing photos and creating a cultural platform that allows both disabled and healthy children to concretely confront each other); 2) creating an organized space like a park to arouse children's desire to meet each other and to create a sense of two-way friendship (this is because recording joint memories will tend to occur by doing other games and activities, and this will affect the children's socialization in all levels without taking into account their physical differences); 3) strengthening self-confidence and using stimuli and components to promote the intelligence quotient of disabled children by emphasizing integrated therapeutic, cultural-recreational space designs; 4) providing environmental and psychological reforms by emphasizing the physical fabric transformation, the entry of healthy children users, and increasing collaborative, emotional, and recreational activities; 5) changing and challenging views of architecture designers to prevent the repetition of previous rigid forms, in addition using more several functions to improve cultural levels in one single place .

Because there is no complete example of a photo park-museum or a rehabilitation center, we began to separately investigate the two, and in the end, we

came up with a simulated place to continue field surveys during their residing. The study method in this study was descriptive-analytical, and qualitative data were collected through field surveys, interviews, and questionnaires.

2. Reasons for the adjacency of a rehabilitation center and a photo museum

An identity is meaningful only if it is juxtaposed with another identity. It is here where culture and identity become interdependent. Culture should be considered the most important and richest source of identity. People and groups are constantly identified by recourse to cultural elements of identity because these elements are highly capable of securing the human need to become distinguished and integrated into communities. Put simply, cultures both create differences and coherence, as they are perceived by their representations; also, identities are represented by cultural signs, which underly identity indicators. These cultural or identity indicators can be languages, history, arts, beliefs, etc. (Gol-Mohammadi, 2003).

Achieving the second type of health, i.e., physiological health where both the minority, disabled children, and the majority, healthy children are involved is very difficult. Reforming incorrect thinking based on cultural pathologies is made in two ways: 1) reforming the thinking of disabled children: self-respect and dealing with self-worthlessness, and 2) reforming the thinking of healthy children: taking care, scoring, and giving status to disabled people in the community, and preventing a violation of their rights in all age groups. According to this study, children are seen as the main museum visitors. The treasures in this museum are photos, and all cultural and educational messages and data are conveyed to minor visitors in the form of photos. One of the reasons why objects in photo museums were selected is that the strong senses that tend to be used in childhood than other senses are vision and hearing senses. Children tend to communicate with their surrounding environments with their eyes, and are not doers in most affairs due to their low ages; however, they record all their actions in their memories without having a role in them. On the other hand, they make their environment impressions more complete by way of their second sense, i.e., hearing and using the explanations offered to them by their teachers. For this, a children's museum involves several photos that are not complex and can convey abstract concepts briefly.

In photography, the photographer creates a photo to capture a moment in time and place in the form of an image and gives it a permanent being, which takes on an eternal nature over time, thereby representing always-living evidence of the history and culture of

his/her land. When a beholder stands in front of this image, s/he sees a moment revived before him (Afshar, 1999).

Gathered photos are divided into two groups: 1) medicinal plants (traditional medicine): these photos pertain to medicinal plants in our country, Iran. By introducing what kind of climate these plants are involved to, we consider that beside of introducing, this method invite minor visitors to read maps and tour virtually both warm and cold areas and regions of the country to learn about them. This could also encourage children to learn about attractions and to find a cure using medicinal plants rather than seeking chemical and clinical treatments, and 2) exceptional children who have become successful social characters over time and have achieved the following in society:

- Acquired higher scientific degrees
- Registered greater inventions
- Assumed administrative positions in private and public organizations
- Founded and operated occupational unions and workshops
- Formed families with their spouses and children and lived happy lives with much pleasure.

On the other hand, failure to raise the awareness of disabled children about their self-respect and the fulfillment of their rights cause crises for them and makes them entrapped in incapacity and self-misery. This will prevent them from ever finding the true path in their lives, and thus they will encounter self-removal, isolation, abandonment, and disharmony with others. In sum, the best and most effective solution to develop and promote physical and psychological health is to work from the early ages of childhood, especially for disabled children.

3. Pause space for treatment and cultural education

Creating a space like this (park) in cities for public recreation is the most commonplace way of making recreation centers. In essence, the nature of these spaces allows all groups of people to use them. In other words, intra-city parks are made for public rest and recreation. In public parks, all entertainment and welfare amenities are available for all sorts of tastes, thinking, and ages (Ashraf-Karim & Shohani, 2014).

To remove this deficiency, not to allow minor users to face each other or to learn about each other's living and behavioral styles, and to disintegrate this rigid space governing therapeutic, and cultural-educational space, there is a need for the presence of a third intermediary to link abstract concepts between

separate but strong uses, and this intermediary is nothing but a park.

By placing park, the problem of the empty space of the clinic from healthy children and vice versa, the empty space of the museum from disable children will be solved. We brilliantly use parks to play a strong role between the two spaces of museums and a rehabilitation center.

Many parents of exceptional children are facing much pressure and thus have no time or verbal opportunities to improve their children's self-confidence other members of family. Therefore, by establishing such a place, a responsibility burden will be removed from the shoulder of disable people (individually) and urban society (generally). This two-way acceptance paves the way for a long healthy life for the disabled in the society. These places involve the following advantages: 1) dealing with the personal view of a disabled child that physical disability could become a large obstacle to achieving their success; 2) dealing with the view of healthy children who fear of being rebuked and isolation due to interaction with disabled people (dealing with this big mistake that motor an sensory disability could delay and disrupt their functions); 3) promoting parental awareness of the fact that they may inhibit their healthy children from interacting with disabled ones, and that they may prevent joint communications between the two groups of children.

4. Formation of children personalities through games and promoting social interactions

Urban space is the time and place setting for peoples' social lives. These spaces are founded on intellectual and thinking bases, the civil collaboration between different groups of society, collective behaviors in society, and human values. Social interaction denotes the creation of a relationship between two or more people, which will cause them to get engaged in actions and reactions. These reactions are already recognized for them. Therefore, meaningless relations do not fall under this definition. Social interaction and communications between people require defining some proportionate events and activities, which will enable people to assume roles in space and become members of social groups and communities as a whole (Daneshpour & Charkhian, 2007).

Man meets his inherent need to establish social interactions by creating space in his living environments. Dier and Walsh maintain that social relations can be formed in space (where site characteristics affect the form of a living complex) and are also threatened by space forms (where a physical environment facilitates or inhibits functions). On the other hand, space serves as a medium to establish

social relations (where distance facilitates social relations and inhibits their establishment). However, with the formation of the artificial environment, urban designers affect functional patterns and social lives. (Carmen, Mathew, et al. 2003).

Our modern society is a reflection of the educated characters of yesterday's children who have become the operators of today's society. These simple games, which we ignore the minor users and equipment and mechanisms involved in, have a pivotal role in forming the subjective structures and social interactions of disabled/healthy children.

In games, children work to arrange things together, learn things, prioritize environmental equipment and plan to use game equipment. So, you can see that they reach a consensus and make decisions as to who should take positions, assume leadership, be removed from friendship, and to whom they give warnings. They also learn in those childish games which professions they should choose and how to take promotions from their positions, or Which works they should have enough dare to select and do, i.e., dangerous, or humanitarian works.

These preliminary interactions and behaviors that occur during games between disabled and healthy children such as simple daily talks, childish singing, manual work, playing together, etc. serve as a beginning to challenge themselves and others, promote a sense of confrontation, encounter all unknown humans and environments, and finally promote the sense of independence in all personal affairs.

Thus, when placed alongside each other, healthy and disabled people learn not to ignore their presence, collaborate in all living stages, balance their affairs, and reach a sense of tolerance in any space.

5. Methodology

The researcher simulated a place because no such building has been constructed either internationally or domestically for disabled children. The main nature behind the design of the photo park-museum is the setting where it surrounded the rehabilitation center. However, due to the lack of such buildings and relevant limitations, the most notable indicator in rehabilitation centers was found to be the one with a larger and green compound which was negotiated by authorities to have some children play amenities. Booths were built with attractive works in the form of photos according to the standards of the children's age group. These scattered rooms in the green space have the statues of full and empty holes of a coherent unit called the museum, which, along with learning, has retained the same exploration and children's games. This helped established a quasi-park-museum

alongside the rehabilitation center. Concerning the study questions: "What are the advantages of a multi-use building?" "What is the effect of environmental psychology on the social behavior and interactions of children?" "What are the effects of physical fabric on changing the commonplace culture?", experts at the center, parents of both healthy and disabled children, and instructors were required to collaborate with the study. In the following, a number of children in the age range of 4 to 6 years were selected by referring to the kindergarten, and their parents were requested to cooperate with us in conducting research to deal with disabled children. The research method is descriptive-analytical and the instruments for data collection include a field survey, observation, semi-structured interview and questionnaire. The measures adopted to proceed with the study were as follows:

- A review of documents related to the study and theories available on the topic
- Using case studies of disabled children rehabilitation centers and photo park-museums and studied cases; analyzing the case through observation and field surveys.
- Conducting semi-structured interviews and gathering information from experts and employees at disabled rehabilitation centers. Some parts of the data in the questionnaire were answered by the parents of healthy and disabled children.

The answers were evaluated based on a Likert scale, with each question involving five items. The questionnaire and semi-structured interview had three sections: proposing an integrated space, the level of satisfaction during children's social interactions, and effects on changing incorrect cultures. Meanwhile, the statistical population of the study consisted of 1) experts at rehabilitation centers and the psychology of the environment, and 2) parents of healthy and disabled children under 14 years.

6. Findings

The examined findings of the study resulting from the interviews and questionnaires were divided into three groups 1) identifying the type of land use along the therapeutic center (cultural, recreational, and therapeutic centers), 2) the quality of giving life to the space (increasing environmental perception by the type of games), and 3) correcting the culture of accepting the disabled and reviving traditional medicine.

6.1 Identifying the type of land use along the rehabilitation center (integrated spaces)

According to the study findings, 83% of the parents of disabled children (children with sensory and motor

disorders) considered the therapeutic center as an appropriate environment for the plan, because the stresses and concerns resulting from the therapeutic process could be intolerable for children, which would also make them fed up with the process. However, creating such recreational and pleasing land uses not only engages both disabled and healthy children together but also helps them interact and communicate with each other. This will enable them to be free from pain and their physical limitations for at least hours, thereby laying the ground for 1) making friendships and familiarity with other children, and 2) getting ready for bigger and more law-oriented spaces such as primary schools, higher levels, etc.

Parents maintained that establishing such an environment could mitigate the feeling of difference in their children, enable them to get familiar and make friends with other children, increase their kinetic activities, cause to practical education of children from each other, educate and treat them in a common space, prevent to make separate space for both groups and bring children to the natural environment. That said, an environment of that kind could bring both healthy and disabled children together to play and communicate together.

The reason why 17% of the parents disagreed with the said plan was due to their concerns about a space where there could be a humiliating attitude towards disabled children and that their conditions could not be perceived; parents also stated that instructors may pay more attention to stronger children and marginalize the disabled, stressing that activities proportionate to the disabled children could not be selective. However, 76% of the parents of normal children and 94% of the experts at the rehabilitation center, and instructors agreed with the plan.

6.2 Increasing environmental perception

Sixty-two percent of the respondents argued that disabled children should only be involved with normal children in some activities and be trained independently of them, while 34.8% suggested that disabled children should accompany normal counterparts in all activities. 3.2% of the respondents, however, did not have a view of the type of these rehabilitation centers.

All the people participating in the study enumerated appropriate integrated activities of the two groups to be as follows:

Group-collaborative activities using facilitators

Physical activities such as playing with clays and playing with paste, etc.

Training-recreational activities without the need for mobility, like watching theater, listening to music and

tales, and generally activities proportionate to the abilities of both groups.

6.3 Correcting the culture of encountering the disabled and reviving traditional medicine

In general, using observations and the evaluation of the data resulting from the questionnaires and interviews, the most important cultural problems between healthy and disabled children were estimated to be their parents who were thought of as barriers to the active engagement of disabled children or even their parents in diverse activities in society.

In the meantime, the simple establishment of a physical space like a museum does not bear fruits; rather, abstract teachings of cooperation and interaction between the healthy group and the disabled group should be revealed in the dynamic space of the park as an intermediary between the physical space and the abstract space. This measure, which is called building a culture of ethics, should be implemented in the type of daily encounters between disabled and healthy children. This is itself a factor to remove incorrect and outdated cultures. On the other hand, a dynamic space like this, combined with greater participation of the children, will help them increase the view of valuing and giving the right to equality in life in all social domains. The problems observed during this study were as follows:

Changing the incorrect view of the disabled children

- Removing the lack of a spirit and internal motives for self-learning and self-demanding
- Working to understand the true rights of equality in life in educational, working, welfare, and familial affairs
- Correcting the disabled's negative view of themselves that physical disability could be a major obstacle to achieving their wishes and wants.

Changing the incorrect view of healthy children

- Correcting the wrong beliefs of healthy minors who fear interacting with the physically disabled people
- Correcting the wrong impression of healthy children who believe that slow motor and sensory activities of the disabled could reduce their mental processing and perception because, unlike physical distinctions, intelligence impressions are the same in both groups of children; however, it has been confirmed that even mental processing and perception are carried out far better in disabled children than their normal counterparts.
- Dealing with fear of being rebuked and isolated due to interaction with disabled

people (if this approach is reinforced in children, it may help healthy children to defend weaker peers)

- Changing the behaviors of parents who play the role of inhibiting their healthy children from interacting with disabled children.

On the other hand, it is quite normal to see the current young and adult generation turn away from traditional medicine and turn to chemical and clinical medications for simple diseases; to resolve this, it is required to provide correct teachings from an early age. A museum space serves as an appropriate platform to transfer such teachings and to reconcile the emerging group of children with the true path of medicine and herbal medications. This is because a healthy society depends on healthy people with healthy mental and psychological characteristics.

7. Conclusions

Photo park-museums and rehabilitation centers for exceptional children not only meet design standards but also meet the physical and somatic needs of users. On the other hand, these centers should be so designed to meet the psychological needs of users and reduce apprehensions and internal fears of children. The researcher aimed to create an integrated design of the environment, i.e., a photo park-museum and a rehabilitation center of exceptional children, to take a more effective step in the two-way acceptance of their social interactions and to revive traditional medicine. What causes the mentioned defects stay current: 1) The society interferes less in urban structures and architecture and changes less the physical body of the city 2) Subsequently, healthy citizens consider themselves more worthy in job seeking and social credits 3) These disabled minors have less interactions with their present tense peers and gradually make less communication in their adulthood, are the non-attendance and inactivity of the architectures, designers and relevant officials to establish a suitable platform for changing the attitude and culture in the heart of the society.

What appears to be a product of an integrated space in architectural design and environmental psychology is that this space not only deals with the Physical therapeutic aspects of disabled children but also helps balance their psychotherapy. Thus, museums were designed. The problem is that to attract visitors, there must be an intermediary between the museum and the rehabilitation center and that is a green space called the park. The results of interviews and questionnaires and evaluation through the Likert scale show the efficiency of combined physical changes and psychological changes in the

environment with the presence of disabled and healthy child users.

The effects of a physical environment on children's behaviors are undeniable. Due to the influence of the place, either children flourish and become more cheerful, more creative and more energetic or they are whelmed into the bad behavior and become more moody, isolated and closed mind. On the other hand, users can affect the physical fabric and promote its efficacy. What helps consolidate a building is the sense of belonging that is born in the mind of users; therefore, the tendency to be permanent in a building is directly correlated with the plurality of the sense of belonging in child users. Apart from limitations about the case study of an integrated design, i.e., combining phot park-museum and the rehabilitation center of exceptional center in Iran and the world, there were limitations as to accessibility to the parents who were sufficiently satisfied with their participation and even their children's participation.

The subsequent demand in future studies is that for increasing physical and mental quality level of the users, there should be accomplished systematic and interdisciplinary studies of architectural-psychology of environment designs so that trial and error brings about coherent knowledge. The building itself should be well utilized and be provided environmental and human protection which are as the distinctive sustainability characteristics.

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