

Recreational Need Assessment of 15 – 64 Years Old Citizen in Isfahan City in Personal, Environmental- social & Cultural Dimension in 2011

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Abstract

The objective of this research was the recreational need assessment of 15-64 Isfahan citizens in three dimensions of individual, environmental-social and cultural. The research method was a descriptive survey. The statistical population of the study consisted of all Isfahan citizens from which 464 were selected using stage sampling method (appropriate to sample size). The research instrument was a researcher questionnaire containing 65 close ended questions and 4 open ended questions. The reliability of the questionnaire proved to be 0/96 using Cronbach,s alpha coefficient and validity of the questionnaire was a superficial and content validity. The data was analyzed both through descriptive (frequency, percentage and standard deviation) and inferential (One-variable t-test, Independent-sample t-test, One way analyzed of variance, LSD test and Friedman) statistics. Analysis of the findings revealed that the most important recreational needs of Isfahan citizens are the need for recreational programs for children and adolescents considering the individual dimension with the average of 4/03, the need for recreational outdoor places like parks , Zayanderood and scenic areas considering the environmental-social dimension with the average of 4/07, and the need for places to hold sport classes considering cultural dimension with the average of 3/86. The recreational needs of citizens were above the average in all three dimensions. A meaningful difference was seen in the type of citizens, recreational needs among the six districts of Isfahan regarding the three dimensions. The environmental-social needs had priority in all districts. No meaningful difference was seen in citizens, recreational needs in the three dimensions regarding age, sex and income. A meaningful difference was seen among recreational needs in individual dimension considering education, marital status and occupation. In addition, there was a meaningful difference among recreational needs in environmental-social dimension regarding owning a car. The most obstacles for participating in recreational program were the distance between recreational places and living place.

Keywords

Recreation, recreational needs assessment, individual recreation, environmental- social recreation, and cultural recreation.

Introduction

This study has been made to identify the recreational needs of Isfahan residents of 15 to 64 years, in three dimensions – individual, environment-social and cultural rights. To investigate the importance of the subject, the four questions were answered as followed.

Why recreation? Professionals believed that human life is a chance that the investor has at his disposal. Part of life and human life are the times that a person without obligation and responsibility to carry out activities; It is said that their leisure time activities, which is shared among all segments of society. The activities are based on individual tastes and his desire to pay it and enjoyed it. The activities are based on individual tastes and his desire to pay it and enjoyed it that it has been called recreation (Kohestanee & Khalilzade Aminian, 1999).

Why are the individual aspects, the environment - social and cultural rights? Recreation as a community-friendly leisure and entertainment experience is valuable and can be done individually or in groups. In this stressful world, it is a factor for the healing spirit and achieves balance in life. Each community is trying based on personal taste, culture, environment and their community is best to meet their needs due to expansion, growth of individual and social character, sense of responsibility and community participation to achieve (Jalalee Farahane, 2010).

Why needs assessment? It is important that recreation should be planned for. A kind of planning that considers the interest and benefit of the society. Kaufman (1991) argued that if the community service program that is of strategic type - go to welcome the future. The first step in this type of planning is needs assessment which makes the man, technology and environment, be considered as a set. There are different types of assessment. If you were planning to act as a catalyst and start planning to target more precisely than before to be put on the ballot and public opinion and its results will be transferred to the planning authorities, planning and implementation suppliers (Michaeli, 2004). Effectiveness of services means that services be efficient services in the location, time, place and be given based on individual needs and focuses on the ways in which individuals are encouraged to achieve self-actualization Torkildsen (1934). Another reason for the importance of need assessment is the change in the people's view due to development in the areas of cultural, social and economic (Jalalee Farahane, 2010).

Why people 15 to 64 years have been studied? Torkildsen (1934) believes that the philosophy of management and recreation planning, creating opportunities for personal growth and satisfaction and all human beings are searching for their identities, therefore needs assessment should include a large part of the community.

Finally, Isfahan as one of the big cities, industrial, tourist and cultural capital of Iran, which encompasses many citizens, In this study, the metropolitan planning for recreational activities and The operation of the facilities in each region and the appropriate design of urban spaces and

Create a quiet, affordable and diverse entertainment for citizen participation in these activities has been studied.

Research Questions

- 1- What is an Isfahan citizen's recreational need in the individual dimension?
- 2- What is Isfahan citizen's recreational need in the environment – social dimension?
- 3- What is Isfahan citizen's recreational need in the cultural dimension?
- 4- Is there any difference among the recreational needs of Isfahan citizens in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimension?
- 5- Is there a difference among Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions in the different areas of Isfahan?

- 6- What are the priority Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions in the different areas of Isfahan?
- 7- According to demographic information, is there any difference among Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions?
- 8- What are the factors and barriers for citizen participation in recreational activities?

Research Methodology

This research is a descriptive survey. It is description because everything is reported objectively and systematically. It is a survey because the researcher studied the views and opinions of citizens (Sarmad & Hejaze & Bazargan, 2009). The statistical population are citizens of 15 to 64 years in Isfahan in 2011. To estimate the sample size, first 30 questionnaires were distributed among the citizens, and After determining the reliability and the variance, a sample size of 464 patients was calculated according to the formula $n = \frac{N S^2}{(N-1)D + S^2}$. In this study, the quota method was used for sampling. So the city is divided into six regions and the share of each region was determined due to its population and finally the quotas for each region were determined on the basis of sex and age. Measuring instruments used in this study were questionnaires containing 52 close ended and 4 open ended questions. The face and content validity of the questionnaire was reviewed and approved by expert professors and reliability based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient equal to 96/0 was calculated. For analysis of data from software spss-18 in the two-level descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (t-test one variable, t- with two independent groups, ANOVA, post hoc LSD tests and Friedman test) were used.

Results of data analysis

Analysis in response to the first question of research on "What is an Isfahan citizen's recreational need in the individual dimension?" has shown that recreational needs of people in the individual dimension was 3/47 with a standard deviation of 0/77. Also The most recreational needs of citizens in individual dimension was the "recreational programs for children and young people" with the average 4/03 and the lowest need was "Recreational programs for people with physical disabilities" with the average of 3/42.

The comparison of average scores of Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in individual dimension with hypothetical average of 3 showed that people's need in individual dimension is more than the middle level. At the level of individual recreations, 72/4 Statistical Society, have expressed their need to "recreational programs for children and adolescents" as a very high demands and need.

Analysis in response to the second question of research on "What is Isfahan citizen's recreational need in the environment – social dimension?" has shown that recreational needs of people in the environment-social dimension were 3/83 with a standard deviation of 0/92. Also the most recreational needs of citizens in environment-social dimension was the "recreation open spaces such as parks, river beaches and scenic areas" with the average 4/07 and the lowest need was "Open spaces for natural living wild animals such as birds, zoo and gardens" with the average of 3/35. The comparison of average scores of Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in environment – social dimension with hypothetical average of 3 showed that people's need in environment – social dimension is more than the middle level. At the level of environment – social recreations, 71/7 Statistical Society, have expressed their need to "recreation open spaces such as parks, river beaches and scenic areas" as a very high demands and need.

Analysis in response to the third question of research on “What is Isfahan citizen’s recreational need in the cultural dimension?” has shown that recreational needs of people in the cultural dimension were 3/54 with a standard deviation of 0/84. Also the most recreational needs of citizens in cultural dimension was the “Places that can be held in the sports class ” with the average 3/86 and the lowest need was “Increasing number of gamenets” with the average of 3/05. The comparison of average scores of Isfahan citizen’s recreational needs in cultural dimension with hypothetical average of 3 showed that people’s need in cultural dimension is more than the middle level. At the level of cultural recreations, 67/7 Statistical Society, have expressed their need to “Places that can be held in the sports class” as a very high demands and need.

Analysis in response to the fourth question of research on “Is there any difference among the recreational needs of Isfahan citizens in the individual, environment- social and cultural dimension?” has shown that the highest ranting belongs to environment-social needs with the average of 2/36 and the lowest rating belongs to individual needs with the average of 1/82. The results indicate that there is a significant differences between the scores in three dimensions Esfahani citizens recreational needs because of the chi-square value equal to 60/934 (with 2 degrees of freedom and significance level of 0/001).

Analysis of data in response to the fifth question of research on “Is there a difference among Isfahan citizen’s recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions in the different areas of Isfahan?” revealed that the observed F value equal to 7/288 in $p < 0.05$ for recreation needs of citizens in individual dimension was significant in terms of the six divisions. It means that there is a difference among the recreational needs of Isfahan in six urban areas in individual dimension.

According to the results, there are significant differences between the opinions of citizens living in the West and the residents who live in the other areas; there are also significant differences between the opinions of citizens living in the South and the residents who live in the other areas.

The observed F value equal to 4/298 in $p < 0.05$ for recreation needs in the environment – social dimension, in terms of division of six urban area, there is a significant difference. The results indicate that there is a significant difference between the views of citizens who live in the West and who live in other areas in the environment – social dimension. There are also significant differences between the North East citizen’s views and the other area.

Analysis in response to the sixth question of research on “What are the priority Isfahan citizen’s recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions in the different areas of Isfahan?” revealed that Recreational needs of the highest rank in the East region in the environment - social, with an average ranking of 2/13, and recreational needs of the individual with the lowest average rank of 1/82 is allocated to. In the East area, there is no significant difference among the scores in three dimensions (chi-square value equal to 3/129, 2 degrees of freedom and significance level of 0/209). Recreational needs of the highest rank in the Western North region in the environment - social, with an average ranking of 2/22, and recreational needs of the cultural with the lowest average rank of 1/92 is allocated to. In the Western North area, there is no significant difference among the scores in three dimensions (chi-square value equal to 3/796, 2 degrees of freedom and significance level of 0/150). Recreational needs of the highest rank in the Eastern North and West region in the environment - social, with an average ranking of 2/59 and 2/44, and recreational needs of the cultural with the lowest average rank of 1/53 and 1/79 is allocated to. In the Western North area, there was significant difference among the scores in three dimensions (chi-square value equal to 38/576 and 11/560, 2 degrees of freedom and significance level of 0/001 and 0/003). Recreational needs of the highest rank in the central and South region in the environment - social, with an average ranking of 2/31 and 2/40, and recreational needs of the individual with the lowest average rank of 1/58 and 1/62 is allocated to. In the Western

North area, there was significant difference among the scores in three dimensions (chi-square value equal to 7/462 and 21/417, 2 degrees of freedom and significance level of 0/024 and 0/001).

Recreational needs of individual citizens in the following order of priority, with averages of 03/4, 4/01 and 3/96 is required for children and adolescent's recreational programs, and recreational programs for youth and recreational complex for people to use family were reported. Recreational needs for citizens in the environment - social, respectively, with averages of 07/4, 02/4 and 4 is the need for recreational open spaces (parks, river beaches and scenic areas), adequate facilities in amusement parks (Sanitary facilities, adequate parking, adequate lighting, and good place to sit) and the suitable and safe routes for walking were reported. Priority needs of the recreation of citizens in the cultural dimension, respectively, with averages of 86/3, 81/3 and 71/3 means need to places to hold classes, sports, facilities for informing people about recreational programs and places for art classes were reported.

Analysis in response to the seventh question of research on "According to demographic information, is there any difference among Isfahan citizen's recreational needs in the individual, environment - social and cultural dimensions?" has shown that T value observed in $p < 0/05$ for the recreational needs of the individual based on gender is not significant between the views of the citizens, men and women in recreational needs assessment, there is no significant difference in three dimensions. The value of f observed in $p < 0/05$ for recreational needs in the person's age is not significant between the ages of citizens with different opinions on recreational needs assessment; there is no significant difference in three dimensions. F value observed in $p < 0/05$ for the recreational needs of the individual in terms of education is significant and that the views of citizens with different degrees, there are significant differences in the recreational needs of the individual. Also in two dimensions, there is no significant difference between the views of citizens with different educations. Recreational needs of citizens in individual dimension in the next couple of scores to compare the results also indicate that significant differences are observed between the views of citizens who has a bachelor's and one who has diploma. The results show that the observed t value at $p < 0/05$ for individual needs based on marital status is significant. It means that there are significant differences between married and unmarried individual needs of the citizens' comments; but there is no significant difference in environment-social and cultural needs. The results show that the observed F value at $p < 0/05$ for individual needs in terms of jobs was significant. It means that there are significant differences between the views of the individual needs of citizens with different jobs. Post hoc test also revealed that there was difference between the groups. But the views of citizens with different jobs in the environmental - social and cultural needs, differences are not significant. The results show that there is a significant difference between the opinions of citizens with different jobs- labor jobs, employee, student, scholar, self-employed and employees with housewives; students with housewives and unemployed values observed in $p < 0/05$ for individual, the environment - social and cultural needs, based on income revealed no significant difference. It means the comments on the individual needs of citizens with different incomes, the environment - social and cultural differences were not significant. The results also indicate that the observed t value at $p < 0/05$ for environmental- social needs in terms of having or not having a car, the difference was significant. But in individual and cultural needs, there was no significant difference.

Analysis in response to the eighth question of research on "What are the barriers for citizen participation in recreational activities?" revealed that the barriers in the way citizens participate in recreational programs, has been respectively 3/81, 3/72 and 3/51 corresponds to "long distance recreational places of local citizens," "crowded places of amusement" and "Lack of information about recreational spaces and programs", and the lowest average score of 2/10 corresponds to the "physical disability".

According to the data obtained, the importance of recreational programs for children, adolescents and young adults is due to people's belief - they are future maker- therefore for all citizens, their physical and mental health is a priority.

The most people believed that on the one hand urbanization and industrialization has today reduced the mobility of citizens, and on the other hand, the Islamic culture has also a great emphasis on sports. Therefore, sport classes makes individuals gain abilities and skills necessary to participate in these important environmental-social activities. In addition, sport exercise is a factor for the health of body and mind.

The urban development is the cause of the need expressed in environment-social dimension. In compare with past life; for the reason of shrinking space of the houses; reduction in family relationship and Communications has happened. Therefore, Outdoor recreations were preferred. Environment in which the exploitation of wide open spaces, social interactions may be made.

On the other hand the social environment in which the citizen lives, cultures of each region, family beliefs, religious and cultural backgrounds, are factors which influence the recreational needs; therefore, this matter made different needs in each urban area.

Based on demographic data, the results obtained in terms of gender, age and income revealed significant differences in recreational needs in various dimensions. On the other hand in terms of education, marital status, employment in individual recreational needs and in terms of having or not having a car in the environment - social recreational needs, significant differences were observed.

Resources

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