

Transforming Arab Cities into age-friendly cities Indicators of Public Spaces and Buildings

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Introduction:

According to data in the World Population Outlook in 2019, by the year 2050; one in six people in the world will be 16% of age older than 65 years of the world's population, with 7% increase (1 in 11) than 2019. In North America and Europe, one quarter of the population will be over 65 (a). The United States is out of date with the many challenges that cities are expected to face as a result of the changing population pyramid and hence the changing needs, the World Health Organization (WHO) has developed a systematic and integrated framework to make cities friendly to older persons, reach active ageing and integrate older persons into development processes. Although many Western countries have begun to adopt this approach and begin to take steps to achieve older-friendly cities, the reality in the Arab world is still in the early stages.

Keywords:

Age friendly city – public space and building – Indicators – ESKWA

Problem:

2018 is the first year in history worldwide that older persons over 65 are more than children under five. "A." The global ageing rate is accelerating rapidly, and although many ESCWA member countries are ageing at the same time at a slow-to-average rate, it is currently projected that it will accelerate in different countries of the region in the coming decades.

Research Goals:

- 1- Development of a methodology on how to transform Arab cities into cities friendly to older persons with a focus on the physical focus of outdoor arenas and public buildings
- 2- Development of a measure which would be a tool for assessing the pawn position of outdoor and building yards.
- 3- Developing and classifying indicators in the process of becoming a city sensitive to older persons.

Previous studies:

International reports have shown that there are many shortcomings in the field of older persons, that there are great challenges in this area, that Arab States have different capacities to deal with this issue and that there is a lack of information and data in this area, despite attempts to develop strategies and policies by States. However, the results are still not commensurate with the overall situation required for cities that are friendly to older persons. (UNFAP 2019).

Importance:

In general, many countries will face political and financial pressures in the future because of current systems such as health-care systems, pensions and protection for older persons. The United States is out of date. In particular, in the Arab Strategy for Older Persons (2019-2029),

one of the main objectives was Arab participation in the Global System of Ageing-Friendly Cities, so that in each Arab country at least one city would be classified as an age-friendly city.

Methodology:

The research was based on the analytical descriptive approach of the reports and studies on cities friendly to older people. The study of the current reality of older persons in Arab ESCWA member States and the monitoring of their own challenges, as well as the case study of the cities of Ottawa, Canada, and Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, and the development of how to transform a city friendly to older persons in general, with a detailed study of the urban hub of outdoors and buildings.

Results and explanations:

From the theoretical and case studies of the cities of Atawa, Canada, and Sharjah, United Emirates, the main findings can be formulated as follows:

1- The methodology of becoming a friendly city for older persons in the field of outdoor and building spaces: Starting with inspiration, changing values, developing a consensus vision from all development partners, then developing a message that identifies the required services, then setting actionable goals, and then key activities, processes and performance indicators to achieve results in a set of phases, as shown in table 1.

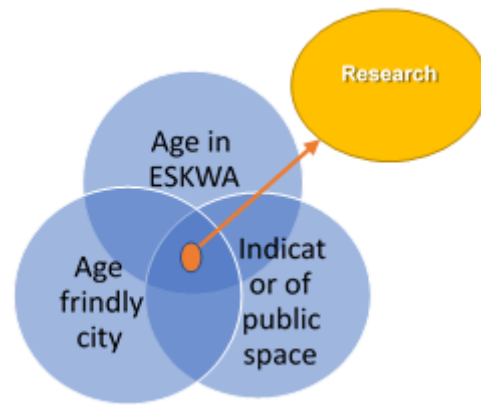


Fig (1) The main elements of the research
Source: The Researcher

Table (1) shows the proposed methodology to transformation						
	The Question	Phase	Definition	Importance	Responsibility	Tools
1	Is there a body responsible for studying the overall needs of older persons?	Planning	Preparing success requirements	Placing the needs of older persons in development priorities	Political leadership	Enactment of a law establishing a higher authority responsible for meeting the requirements of older persons

2	What's the status quo in outdoor yards and buildings?	Evaluation	Status quo Study and requirements of outdoor courtyards and buildings	Inventory and prioritization of cases Specialized	Committee of the Supreme Committee and related bodies	Criteria (availability -quality- convenience accessibility -security and safety). SWOT Setting priorities
3	Where do we want to get to with old people?	Vision	Confirm The strategic plan contains better ambitions than the past.	Study needs and create a mental picture of the desired future.	A High Committee responsible for meeting the requirements of older persons - representatives of older persons - related bodies (local, municipal, road and maintenance...)	Questionnaires - focus groups - workshops
4	What is the kind of work do we want to do for old people?	Mission	Select Reasons for presence, areas of work and services provided.	Defines the framework, standards of delivery and types of services	High Committee responsible for meeting the requirements of older persons - representatives of older persons - related bodies	Workshops
5	What specific goals are required?	Objectives	Target = target + beneficiary + specific-time area	Determining what's important and doable	Related Executive + Senior Committee on Older Persons Executive Office of Project Management + Senior	Workshops
6	What operations are needed to achieve the goals?	Operations & Row Projects and activities to be carried	Description of projects and activities that must be carried out by	Governance, resource allocation, accountability and	Relevant executives	Office of Project Management

		out by the competent parts of the Organization in order to achieve the strategic objectives.	the competent parts of the Organization in order to achieve the strategic objectives.	timetable for delivery		
7	How do you measure what's done?	Indicators Performance	They are tools for measuring the quantification and qualitative achievement of targets	Measurement of achievement at the time of completion of the project	Special High Committee on Older Persons	Using key performance indicators
8	How to evaluate and develop?	Evaluation	Adjusting plans and processes to achieve objectives	Adjusting operations to achieve the required objectives	The Office of Project Management of the relevant bodies and a specialized committee for follow-up by the High	Committee Field survey - schedules - meetings - workshops

2- Control of outdoor yards and public buildings: As can be seen in Table 2, it consists of assessed physical elements (green areas, walkways, services, sidewalks, water cycles, buildings, toilets), and benchmarks and measurement indicators (availability, ecology, convenience, accessibility, security, and safety-satisfaction).

Table 2 - Assessment tool

Criteria- Indicators		Criteria	Satisfaction	Safety	Accibility	Appropriate	Enough	Availability
		Indicators	Are you satisfied with the element in terms of (cleanliness-maintenance-aesthetics)?	Does the element meet security and safety requirements?	How accessible is the item?	Is the item appropriate?	Is the element enough?	Is the item available?
		Method	Yes, no, to some extent.	Yes, no, to some extent.	Easy, medium easy, hard to get.	Appropriate - not entirely appropriate - needs improvement	Enough. - Not enough.	Available - Unavailable
Element	Details							
Green area	A green space that is safe and fully cared for is a shelter of sun, wind and rain.							
Pedestrian lanes	Pedestrian lanes of non-sliding, barrier-free materials							
Bike Lanes	Separate from pedestrian lanes							
Outside seats	Outside seats in parking lots, roads and courtyards							
Sidewalk	Level, non-sliding and width allowing wheelchair movement							
Roads	It's got walkways. It's got light signals.							
Services	Combined services with special lines for older persons							
Buildings	Sidewalks - Ladders - Slopes - Elevators - Seats							
Public restroom	Well designed for older people - clean							

Source: The Researcher

Recommendation:

- Measuring the suitability of public spaces and buildings to the needs of older persons at the neighborhood level. This task is carried out by municipalities and graduate researchers through the use of the metrology in research.
- Development of a measure of the suitability of outdoor arenas and public buildings by researchers based on practical experiments.
- The use of the criteria and indicators reached in the research in the development of an electronic questionnaire for older persons implemented by the Ministry for Municipal Affairs, through which older persons identify the challenges they face in outdoor arenas and public buildings.
- Issue an administrative decision establishing the Executive Council and a Senior Committee for Older Persons in Arab Cities;
- Awareness-raising and training on indicators for outdoor areas and buildings through the competent Ministry, carried out by experts in urban areas and provided to those with competence in local administrations.

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