

**Urban Marginalization in Cities of Developing Societies:
A Socio-analytic Study of Connotations, Factors and Manifestations**

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received:06/04/2024

Accepted:16/04/2024

Keywords:

Marginalization;

Urban fringe;

city;

underdeveloped areas

JEL Code:P25, O18

ABSTRACT

The problems of urban marginalization have worsened with the emergence of modern cities and have become a global phenomenon facing all cities in the world, especially in developing societies, with varying degrees of severity and methods and policies for confronting them. This has prompted many researchers and those interested in societal problems to investigate this phenomenon and research its social, urban, economic, psychological, cultural, and even health effects. On the groups exposed to it, marginalization as an urban sociological phenomenon creates individuals isolated socially and spatially, voluntarily or involuntarily, as a result of practices outside the standards that cause them to be separated and removed from social interactions within urban society. This study addresses this phenomenon in the cities of developing societies by addressing its concept and implications in the sociological literature, its factors, as well as its manifestations in the urban field

**التهميش الحضري في مدن المجتمعات النامية:
دراسة سوسيولوجية تحليلية للدلالات، العوامل والتجليات**

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معلومات المقال

تاريخ الاستقبال: 2024/04/06

تاريخ القبول: 2024/04/16

الكلمات المفتاحية

تهميش؛

هامشية حضرية؛

مدينة؛

مناطق متخلفة

JEL Code:P25, O18

المخلص

تفاقمت مشكلات التهميش الحضري بظهور المدن الحديثة وأصبحت ظاهرة عالمية تواجه جميع مدن العالم خاصة في المجتمعات النامية، مع اختلاف درجة حدتها وأساليب وسياسات مواجهتها، وهذا ما دفع بالكثير من الباحثين والمهتمين بمشاكل المجتمع إلى تقصي هذه الظاهرة والبحث في آثارها الاجتماعية والعمرانية والاقتصادية والنفسية والثقافية وحتى الصحية على الفئات المعرضة لها، فالتهميش كظاهرة سوسيولوجية تخلق أفراداً معزولين اجتماعياً ومجالياً إرادياً أو غير إرادياً، نتيجة لممارسات خارجة عن المقاييس تنسب في فصلهم وإبعادهم عن التفاعلات الاجتماعية داخل المجتمع الحضري، حيث تعالج هذه الدراسة هذه الظاهرة في مدن المجتمعات النامية من خلال التطرق إلى مفهومها ودلالاتها في الأدبيات السوسيولوجية، وعواملها، وكذا مظاهرها في المجال الحضري

Introduction

Since man lost his ability to sleep in the open air, his need for shelter became one of the basic needs that come after his need for food. Therefore, he began to become creative in making his shelter and developing it to meet his needs. Thus, housing has developed throughout human history to the point of being made of bricks, iron, reinforced cement, and other expensive materials. Here the first signs of urban problems appeared. The more luxurious the housing was, the more its expenses exceeded people's capabilities. Hence, inappropriate housing became the norm. As for adequate housing, it has become an exception enjoyed by a minority of individuals.

The type of housing, its shape, and the functions it provides are an image that reflects a person's interaction with his environment and society, explains his daily needs, and explains the natural and psychological factors to which he responds. With the development of the art of architecture, the advancement of engineering sciences throughout the ages, and the increase in urban inflation, especially in major cities, many concepts have been proposed that are closely linked. With the urban problem, the most important of which is the phenomenon of urban marginalization, this concept that took several forms to describe the social conditions and spatial situation spread around cities and within their urban enclaves. Its repercussions are reflected on individuals and groups in images related to poverty and deprivation, and then later expanded to include all types of social exclusion within cities.

The problems of urban marginalization have worsened with the emergence of modern cities and have become a global phenomenon facing developed countries alongside the most backward and poorest countries, with the degree of its severity varying from one society to another and the methods and policies for confronting it. This is what has made many researchers and those interested in societal problems view it as an urban problem.

As for developing countries, they have only known the problems of urban marginalization for a short time as a result of these societies being exposed to population explosion, following an unexpected increase in population numbers, in addition to rising life expectancy rates as a result of a decrease in mortality rates, thanks to health care for children and the elderly, as well as rural migration and the spread of the phenomenon ruralization of cities in search of job opportunities, as is the case with Egyptian society, which led to the current crisis and made it worsen day by day.

Other Arab societies have been exposed to this crisis, such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as a result of the emergence of oil in those regions and the industrial and urban renaissance, which led to the influx of huge numbers of immigrants from different parts of the world to work in these countries. Therefore, the problem of urban marginalization and related matters was and still is. It has urban factors and variables that constitute one of the major concerns of researchers and politicians in developing countries. By studying and analyzing those aspects that were behind the emergence of this problem, we find that they fall within a unified social framework that organizes three main interacting factors that contributed to producing this crisis.

This study addresses the phenomenon of urban marginalization in cities of developing societies by addressing its concept and connotations in the sociological literature, its factors, as well as its manifestations in the urban field.

1) Urban marginalization in sociological literature:

The concept of marginalization in geography refers to a process rather than a social situation, as it is usually associated with regions or fields that are less developed, or in which levels of development are low, while neglecting the factors that led to the production of such a phenomenon, such as difficult climatic conditions, the geographical and legal status of the property, weak economic resources, deteriorating relations with society and authority, etc. All these factors, individually or together, create difficult conditions and the inability to harmonize and adapt among marginalized individuals, groups, cities, or even countries. Intentionally or unintentionally.(Khojlay, April 2022, pp37-38)

On the other hand, researchers in the fields of humanities and social sciences focus in their treatment of the concept of marginalization on individuals and groups, as this concept is presented in the context of its relationship to the social situation experienced by marginalized individuals or groups, in accordance with the idea of **“centrism generates marginalization”** which is what **Pierre Bourdieu** emphasizes by presenting the phenomenon of marginalization as the face opposing what is dominant or central, which makes it occupy a less favorable position. Hence, we find that the marginal position in sociology is measured by two main determinants, one of which is topical and linked to the movement between the center and the peripheries, and the second is social linked to factors. Socio-economic and cultural issues for the marginalized, such as education level, poverty levels, housing, health, work, etc....(Bourdieu,1992, p123)

Through this sociological proposition, it becomes clear to us that marginalization is a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional phenomenon. It is linked to material, spatial or territorial components, and other non-material components related to the nature of relations between individuals and social groups within the same society, or between different societies, which in turn produce different forms of marginalization, the most prominent of which is what this study addressed which is urban marginalization, that expresses an urban and spatial situation and the associated social practices, which are realistically translated into various forms of socio-urban exclusion, discrimination, and isolation, and the accompanying social ills and problems in marginalized urban areas. (Abd Elhadi, 2021, p. pp. 105-106)

If we approach this form of marginalization in its macro-social and micro-urban dimensions, based on a dual vision that integrates its spatial and social dimensions, we can notice its social, economic, psychological, cultural, and even health effects on the marginalized urban population. This situation creates individuals isolated socially and spatially, voluntarily or involuntarily, where they are victim to practices outside the standards that cause them to be separated and removed from social interactions, which establishes the phenomenon of social exclusion. (Sierra and Tadié, 2008, p128)

2) Factors of urban marginalization in cities of developing societies

Among the most important factors of the phenomenon of urban marginalization in cities in developing societies are the following :

2-1) Population increase and rural migration towards cities

Two-thirds of the world's population lives in developing countries, where the greatest changes occur in both fertility and urbanization levels, as their major cities witness a doubling in population every 13.5 years, with the population increase in these cities reaching between (1950-1970); 100 people or more, at a rate of 67% every decade (Al-Sayed, 2000, p. 169) ,This rapid urban inflation is due to several factors known to these countries in the context of their historical, social and economic development, and its danger lies in the negative effects resulting from its relationship with economic development in developing societies.

Looking at the Arab world as a single spatial unit, we find that the population is increasing at an average rate of about 30% annually, while the global average reaches 1.8% (Al-Khouli, N.T, pp. 31-33), as Hassan Al-Saati attributes the reasons of this increase to two basic factors: (Al-Saati, 1981, p. 22)

- ✓ The Industrial Revolution, which facilitated transportation and developed life in general.
- ✓ Exploiting new lands, which led to the creation of other places for a large population

Studies presented by the United Nations at the Bangkok City Conference to find out the reasons leading to the massive population increase experienced by cities in the developing world have shown that it is due to the following basic reasons:

- ✓ High population density in the countryside due to increased fertility, which led to a shrinkage of cultivated areas and a lack of agricultural employment opportunities, which led many to leave rural areas in search of work and luxury that could be available in cities, which served as attracting factors for them.
- ✓ The increase in urban inflation in developing countries was also economically linked to the banking system, banks, and financial organizations, which led to the flourishing of commercial economic activities and increased urbanization rates on a large scale, which attracted the labor force and increased urban growth.
- ✓ From a political standpoint, urban inflation is explained in light of the new ideas adopted by developing societies after their independence, which aim to remove many of the physical and social obstacles to the movement and freedom of movement of individuals and groups, which led to their concentration in cities.
- ✓ The social aspect shows that implementing the policy of centralizing social services in cities alone made them targeted areas for the population, which led to urban inflation
- ✓ Urban inflation can also be attributed to health factors, given the rapid technological development in the field of medicine and health care, the spread of environmental awareness among the lower classes of society, and the growth of agricultural production, which led to improved living conditions and a reduction in the death rate in these countries compared to the years of occupation. This is on one hand, and on the other hand, the high fertility rate is one of the basic factors that led to the population explosion recorded in recent decades in these countries.

These factors have led to an increase in population pressure on cities compared to other regions, as is the case in Egypt, whose governorates recorded rates of increase estimated at 03% annually.

The migration movement also plays a major role in the imbalance of cities and their expansion beyond borders, as the first beginnings of internal migration in developing countries were known during periods of occupation, and the occupiers' adoption of a policy of forced displacement of residents from rural areas to prevent their assistance to liberation movements (Jabi, 1987, p. 240). It continued even after these countries got their political independence. As a result of the factors of attraction in cities and the deterioration of living standards in the countryside, which led to the expansion of urban areas, which caused increased growth and inflation of cities in parallel with the high rates of natural increase in developing societies, and led to the emergence of serious problems, the most important of which is the problem of urban marginalization. (Abd Errahim, N D, p. 131)

Gabriach believes that the increase in population in developing countries produces a kind of urban marginality in underdeveloped housing areas, which in turn creates many obstacles that hinder the progress of their societies towards urbanization, which are:

- ✓ **Cultural obstacles:** represented by widespread ignorance and illiteracy among developing peoples, cultural dependency inherited from the colonial era, in addition to the vast leap towards twentieth century technologies that these peoples knew - influenced by long Western experience in this field - without going through the establishment of a cultural base or a system that is compatible with rapid technological progress, which would create many urban problems, thus reflecting what some researchers, led by **William Agbon**, called the manifestations of cultural gap and backwardness. (Essayed, 2000, p. 163)
- ✓ **Social obstacles:** embodied in the weakness of the social and functional structure of developing societies, the spread of heterogeneous minorities and class disparity as a result of the prevailing governance systems. (Boudraa, N D, p. 149)
- ✓ **Economic obstacles:** Urban growth in many countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa has produced a disparity between population numbers and resources, and high rates of density beyond available capabilities. What makes the matter even more dangerous is the fact that the cities of developing countries are no longer able to absorb the surplus population that is increasing day after day. Today, at faster and more dangerous rates, most of these cities are old and were not built according to well-studied plans that allow for the possibility of expansion in the future, in addition to the lack of capital that would enable the provision of more services and consumer goods. (Boudraa, N D, p. 150)
- ✓ **External obstacles:** represented by the type of dependency imposed on these societies after they got rid of political colonialism and fell hostage to economic, social and technological colonialism, the features of which appear through the daily life and actions of individuals and groups in these countries. . (Essayed, 2000, p. 149)

2-2) Unplanned urban growth

- ✓ The aspects of urban growth in developing societies are a mixture of different cultures. The city in developing countries reveals an ecological structure that is similar to some degree to western industrial cities, while it still maintains the style of the city in the medieval and ancient ages, as is the case with Algerian cities, which it is noted that most of its construction dated back to three historical stages: some of them were built during the reign of the Turks, some were completed during the era of French colonialism, and others were built after independence, which produced a heterogeneous architectural fabric (Dlimi, 2007, p.17), and what can be said about the urban growth of cities of the third world is that it is not compatible with the needs of those coming to cities, and this contradicts the science of urban planning, as it takes several forms, including: . (Boudraa, N D, pp. 163-164)
- ✓ **Strip growth:** This occurs on the outskirts of cities when new immigrants convert agricultural lands in the city into new residential areas without legal permission, in the absence of control over the urban pattern on the outskirts of cities. This growth is also spreading along the edges of main roads and railway lines, leading to a rapid shrinkage of agricultural areas and turning them into marginal areas.
- ✓ **Linear urban growth:** This form extends between major cities and the urban centers close to them through linear expansion along the roads that connect them. Thus, forming small marginal urban centers that intersect with rural centers to give cluster forms along the many different transport axes emanating from the cities.
- ✓ **Urban integration:** It constitutes an advanced stage of linear urban growth if left without intervention, thus leading to the merger of small adjacent marginal urban areas to become one urban area.

From the above, it is clear to us the bad situation in the cities of the developing world due to massive urban inflation, which has reached a degree that exceeds the capabilities of these countries to control it, and has led to the spread of various neighborhoods and urban areas. **Clinard** confirms that these areas constitute a large part of the problems facing cities, and are spread throughout all developing countries in the form of settlements surrounding their cities, as is the case in **Reo De Ganero**, the city of **Lima**, and the rest of the cities of Latin America....

Despite the differences in these regions and the different names given to them, they perform the same function everywhere. It is a shelter for huge numbers of low-income people, who have not found a better place to live, and it is built on the least desirable plots, such as swamps, hillsides, railway lines, areas surrounding factories..., and huts are built randomly from different materials, and that is where their problems lie. In the deterioration of the living conditions of its residents, socially, economically, culturally and urbanely, which led to the disparity of parts of one city in terms of ecological and morphological aspects, with the absence of a strict urban policy to control this disparity, and despite the efforts of governments to remove these settlements, they still represent an urban phenomenon in most developing societies. (Essayed, 2000, pp. 166-167)

2-3) Weak urban planning policies

Much of the population of the developing world resides in marginal areas that are unsuitable at all levels, and the vast majority of its population receives only a limited amount of community services and capabilities, or may even receive none of these services, in addition to the spread of unemployment, illiteracy, malnutrition, and environmental problems. In human settlements (Essayed, 2000, p. 282), after World War II, the expansion of industries imposed a new global economy that changed the urbanization of Third World cities in quantity and quality, as most of these countries pursued an industrialization policy that has direct links to the needs of capitalism.

In this context, many point out that the main cause of the urban marginalization crisis in developing societies is the relationship that arises between investment and the capitalist environment, which has produced economic backwardness and created great needs, especially in the field of housing and since the governments of these countries did not monitor the urban growth that has developed since the sixties, which has produced serious problems that have attracted the attention of specialists in this field. The population of one million cities has doubled in a maximum period of 15 years. This is due to the failure of local planning in developing countries to become an effective tool to confront this steady increase. Millions of rural residents have been pushed into urban centers due to unemployment, hunger, illiteracy, poor services, and inefficient investments in local services. At the time when local authorities began presenting urban programs and plans, they quickly collided with reality when they found themselves unable to implement these plans, which often conflicted with the private interests of individuals. In addition to this, there was a

lack of good coordination between the various efforts made by public sector authorities. This prevented these authorities from keeping pace with the speculative initiatives of the private sector, which became the official founder of the developing city, and the low-paid and unemployed residents became the unofficial planners and builders of the same city. Thus, the expected result, which actually occurred, was the existence of marginalized and poor residential areas in which thousands of residents live in semi-isolation in homes that lack the minimum necessary services, and which are at least an hour or two away from the mother city by rapid transportation. (Dlimi, 2007, pp.14-15)

Some may ask whether it is possible to find a method that would improve the living conditions of residents of marginal urban areas in third world countries. Here, one finds only a few answers. Rather, other new questions quickly arise in one's mind that remain without a convincing answer. Urban marginalization in developing countries is one of the most dangerous elements of the crisis, and although its effects vary from one country to another, there is a consensus among various researchers and scholars that there is weakness and even a major inability in the planning policies in force in these countries to find objective solutions to this problem.

Cominos believes that the residential environment and living conditions are clearly deteriorating in developing countries to the exclusion of other countries as a result of their special circumstances. He shares with **Abrams** the assertion that this situation is nothing but the result of governments' erroneous efforts and their adoption of weak policies for urban development through which the waste of Lands and services. (Esayed, 2000, p. 291)

Based on the above, it can be said that planning and land use policies in urban areas in most developing countries are subject to the control and direction of market mechanisms, which reduces the chances of choosing the appropriate location and housing unit due to the low level of family income. In addition, the lack of integrated development policies has resulted in concentrating productive investments and various investments directed to urban development in very limited areas , and neglecting the rest of the areas to become mere spatial areas that accommodate increasing numbers of people whose poverty rates have reached a level that cannot be reversed.

3) Manifestations of urban marginalization in cities of developing societies

The features of urban marginalization in developing countries are determined by the presence of urban socio-borders that separate residents of marginalized areas from the rest of the city, giving them a stereotypical image that reflects their position in society, the most important manifestations of which are:

3-1) Urban disintegration

This refers to spatial discontinuity, the formation of geographical and social boundaries, and the loss of interconnection and cohesion between the city's regions and its various parts. This is the case of neighborhoods located on the outskirts of the country that suffer from manifestations of physical and social disintegration. What reinforces this disintegration is the exposure of the residents of these areas to various forms of exclusion, isolation, poverty, and deportation from the circles of social relations, which widens the gap between the various groups of society. (Abdelhadi, 2021, pp. 110-111)

3-2) Socio-urban exclusion

Socio-urban exclusion refers to the exclusion of certain groups in the city from participation in social interactions, and spatial, social, and cultural integration within the urban community of which they are considered a part, leaving them to suffer from imposed isolation based on spatial, social, and economic considerations. , cultural, even religious and ethnic. . (Abdelhadi, 2021, pp. 111-112)

3-3) Urban poverty

The phenomenon of urban marginalization leads to growing manifestations of poverty, destitution and need among residents of marginalized areas, as it is a clear expression of the great inability to distribute the resources and privileges of living in the city to the population in a balanced and fair manner, which leads to depriving many groups of their basic rights, such as housing, education, health, work, etc., and their inability to obtain financial resources sufficient to improve their living conditions. . (Abdelhadi, 2021, pp. 112-113)

3-4) Urban social stigma: Urban social stigma is one of the most important indicators of urban marginalization. Residents who suffer from various manifestations of marginalization, exclusion, and poverty have characteristics that characterize them, and a certain peculiarity accompanying them that makes them different from others, whether in their view towards themselves or in the view of urban society towards them, which makes them lose their position in urban society, and increases the difficulty of their integration into it. . (Abdelhadi, 2021, pp. 113-114)

Conclusion

Urban marginalization is considered a social phenomenon rather than a spatial situation, given its negative repercussions that affect the various aspects of the city, both the physical through its impact on the urban aspect and the various physical characteristics that distinguish cities from rural areas, and the non-material that relates to the nature of relations between individuals and groups and cultural characteristics. Therefore, this problem has been and will continue to occupy the minds of planners, architects, implementers and legislators, and the intellectual separation still exists between them. The agencies directed at city planning in developing societies are not at the scientific and technical level that qualifies them to confront this problem, and for this reason they often resort to foreign expertise.

Based on this study, opinions varied about the factors causing the phenomenon of urban marginalization and other manifestations that embody the features of the urban crisis in developing societies, between lack of funding, or deficiencies in legislation, or weakness in planning and design, or the backwardness of building research, or all of these. All aspects, or in the lack of coordination between them, or in the neglect of some of them, but what can be said with certainty is that the problem is dynamic, and can only be confronted by a parallel intellectual movement, which can only be achieved by intensifying research, developing legislation, and designing urban plans that preserve the balance of cities.

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