



*Geography and human relationships, supplement1, winter2020*

## ***The analysis of the impact of the sense of place attachment to new residential neighborhoods on an increasing sense of security***

### ***Case study: Elahieh neighborhood of Mashhad***

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*Submit date: 28/01/2019*

*Accept date:08/12/2019*

#### ***Abstract***

*Security is one of the most important needs of people after basic needs. Due to the unnecessary developments in cities and the lack of identifying elements as well as the decrease in the sense of attachment to new neighborhoods, it has created problems, such as reduced levels of security. Therefore, the most necessary action to achieve a sense of security at the residential level is to strengthen and enhance the sense of attachment to the neighborhood. The purpose of this present study has to analyze the feeling of security by emphasizing the influence of sense of place attachment in Elahieh neighborhood of Mashhad. The research method is descriptive-analytical and library-documentary sources and questionnaire distribution among residents of Elahieh neighborhood used for data collection. Sample size estimated to be 397 according to the neighborhood population using PASS software. The results of the study show that the feeling of security is low in the neighborhood of Elahieh and there is a weak sense of belonging among the residents. In this regard, measures affecting the sense of attachment to increase the sense of security in the neighborhood have been analyzed and ranked by Friedman test. Finally, measures of neighborhood boundary status, reminiscences and participation of residents, as well as neighborhood identity, are effective in reducing neighborhood security.*

*Keywords: Sense of security, sense of place attachment, Elahieh neighborhood, Mashhad*

## **Introduction**

*One of the necessities of the emergence and continuity of the city is the peace and tranquility that the urban man derives from living in such an environment (Khodaei et al., 2014: 46). On this basis, security is one of the ways to achieve peace and security and it can be said that security is one of the most important and important phenomena which is one of the basic needs of individual and society (Kargar, Sarvar, 2013: 12). From small communities to large urban communities, human beings have always sought to achieve security and a sense of security. In other words, security is one of the basic human needs (Bemanian, Mahmoudinejad, 2009: 21). However, more important than security is the feeling of security. The existence of security in a society is as important as the sense of security and psychological security in that community (Panahi et al., 2010: 189). Also, the sense of security in urban spaces is one of the indicators of the quality of space (Lotfi et al., 2015: 132). The winding partitions of streets, closed and unobstructed neighborhoods, and the barren and inundated spaces make inherently suitable spaces for increasing violence (Fokuhi, 2011: 282). Also the existence of different conditions such as population, high density, immigrants of different cultures and races, class disparities, severe unemployment, economic and income problems, lack of suitable housing and the like are among the factors causing urban crime (Ziyari, 2011: 3). Given that people in most cities do not care about each other and do not pay attention to each other (Farid Tehrani, 2011: 16). Accordingly, the most necessary measure to achieve a sense of security in residential areas is to reinforce the sense of attachment to the neighborhood. In the past, people lived in the same neighborhood that they were born to live in. Therefore, belonging is a feeling that evolves over time and requires a long stay in the neighborhood (Ghasemi Isfahani, 2013: 145). The sense of place attachment to the sense of place means people's mental perception of the environment and their consciously less aware of their environment, which puts the person in touch with the environment, so that one's understanding and feelings are linked to the semantic context of the environment. This feeling is a factor that turns a space into a place of particular sensory and behavioral characteristics for particular individuals (Meshkin et al., 2014: 42). The sense of place and attachment not only makes one feel comfortable in an environment, but also leads to identity for the individual (Fallahat, 2006: 61). Elahieh neighborhood of Mashhad which is one of the western neighborhoods; With the recent developments, the attraction of the population is facing problems such as security. In the light of the above, this article aims to test the increasing sense of security by emphasizing the feeling of attachment to the Elahieh neighborhood of Mashhad. The research questions are as follows:*

- 1. How does the sense of attachment to the Elahieh neighborhood help enhance your sense of security?*
- 2. What criteria for sense of belonging lead to a decrease in the sense of security in the Elahieh neighborhood?*

## **Literature and Theoretical of Research**

*Song and Soopramanien discuss the types of environmental feelings and behaviors in Beijing in 2018. The results show that the dimensions of social bonding are more relevant to promoting environmental stimulus behaviors, and this relationship is stronger for native-born residents and those who live longer (Song & Soopramanien, 2018).*

*In a paper titled Developing a Measurement Approach to Affordable Housing Approval in 2016, Choi et al, students in University surveyed their homes. According to the results of the confirmatory factor analysis, the underlying concepts of emotional communication, location identity, location dependency, rooting, and home perception have been validated as a measure location coefficients to the home environment (Choi, 2016).*

Benson, in a 2014 paper, explores the processes in which middle-class people choose social and spatial paths to select residential and dynamic environments as social cues and motivations. It also discusses the status of land and buildings for attachment to the middle class of society. In the end, the sense of belonging to a dynamic place creates a classified identity in the residential environment. a residential space is not only suitable for reflecting existing tastes and lifestyles, but may also help to transform the habit of adapting to specific neighborhoods and lifestyles (Benson, 2014).

Alawadi illustrates in this article how top-down developments affect the sense of belonging to residents of the old army and police district in Dubai. This paper draws on a case study of ethnography, including field observations, interviews with residents, and local press reports. The findings show that redevelopment has destroyed this old neighborhood to attract economic elites without trying to preserve its social, economic and emotional value to residents or the larger community, and has destroyed the welfare of vulnerable populations. This paper concludes that Dubai's top-down planning model does not affect the needs of low-income communities. The report argues that in support of maintaining and reducing displacement impacts, Urban planners should put more pressure on government and developers over affordable housing policies and projects, and should develop service plans that provide technical and economic assistance to city dwellers. Who face expulsion (Alwadi, 2016).

Sajjadzadeh, Hassan et al., 2015, in an article entitled *Spatial Enlargement and Environmental Quality Perception on Satisfaction in Traditional Neighborhood*, analyzed and investigated in Haji Hamadan neighborhood. And it has come to the conclusion that the factor that creates a satisfying feeling in this neighborhood is first the presence of spatial attachment and then the environmental quality.

### Concept of security

The concept of security backs to the extent of human history and in some respects to the concept of community. This concept has gradually evolved with new dimensions of human development, so that security is now being developed in development (not weapons) (Kargar, 2006: 33). In Table 1, the semantics of security in dictionaries and dictionaries are examined.

**Table 1: Semantics of the Concept of Security (Mabhoot et al, 2019: 82)**

Dictionary	Meaning
Dehkhoda	Silent and safe
Moin	To be safe
Amid	Safe, secure, relaxed and comfortable
El- manjad Maloof	Rest assured

According to the studies in Table 1, the concept of security can be invaded without consent and in the case of individuals, without fear of legitimate rights and freedoms and without endangering those rights and freedoms. He defined the threat and danger of death, disease, and unexpected events, and in general, any factor that undermines human peace (Kargar, Sarvar, 2013: 163). A sense of security is a feeling of relative freedom from the danger that this pleasant situation creates in individuals in the community and in which the individual feels physically and mentally rested (Rajabi Pour, 2005: 93). The sense of security in a society comes from the mentality of citizens as to the existence or absence of crime and the criminal conditions in that society and the higher the crime rate and higher the crime situation rate makes lower the sense of security for citizens (Hezarjaribi, 2011: 130).

**Table 2: Crime Prevention Theories (Mabhoot et al, 2019: 82)**

<b>Theorist</b>	<b>Theories and Principles</b>
<i>Coleman (1985)</i>	<i>Examine the relationship between the crime event and the design of the office building environment. He suggested that particular structures of design encourage high levels of crime and segregation and social disabilities.</i>
<i>Fuller (1992)</i>	<i>The physical diversity of the neighborhood creates different types of street user groups, These groups are important parts of a healthy social life and a healthy social life has fewer offenders and fewer opportunities to commit crime</i>
<i>Fisher and Tesser (1992)</i>	<i>They put forward a vision and vision strategy to reduce crime and believe that broad vision allows one to better understand their surroundings and make decisions faster when crimes occur.</i>
<i>Ronclarke (1997)</i>	<i>The situational approach developed and formulated by him focuses on the opportunities for crime to occur.</i>
<i>Saville (2000)</i>	<i>Developing a comprehensive security model that delegates the task of creating security and maintaining it in the neighborhoods with the help of professionals to achieve this.</i>
<i>Chinnie, Ratcliffe, (2005)</i>	<i>It examines the impact of gated alleyways in the UK on reducing home theft.</i>
<i>Brantingham (1991-2008)</i>	<i>Theory develops a pattern of crime and examines the role of crime in the three key urban elements - nodes, paths, and edges - that individuals face in their daily movements.</i>

### **Sense of place**

Place is part of the geographical space occupied by an individual or something (Johnston, 2000: 9) and it is a space that is meaningful to the individual and to a group of people (Mirgholami, Eisham, 2016: 70). Sense of place is a concept that transforms an ordinary space into a specific place with specific behaviors and personality traits that are specific to the people (Hashemnejad et al, 2013: 7). It means communicating with the perception of daily activities and their associated symbols with the place, which can create a sense of place in people's lives and extend throughout life (Relph, 1976). The phrase of sense of place is a combination of the two words sense and place. The word sense is more in the sense of affection and judgment, and the overall experience of the place or its ability to create a particular feeling or belonging to individuals (Maleki et al, 2013: 101). Sense of place is an important factor in the coordination of the individual and the environment and it makes better use of the environment, satisfaction of the users and ultimately their sense of attachment to the environment and its continuity (Sarmast, Motevaselly, 2010: 136). According to Shamai's studies, different levels of sense of place include three main stages of belonging, place attachment, and commitment to place (Meshkini et al, 2014: 45).

### **Sense of Place Attachment**

The sense of attachment is a higher level of sense of place that has a decisive role in the exploitation and continuity of human presence in any place and space (Falahat, 2006: 60). Place attachment in people is formed by the place where they were born and raised (Ahmadi et al, 2014: 71). Place attachment is beyond awareness of being in one place. This sense leads to a person's connection with place, in which man considers himself a part of the place and based on his experiences of signs, meanings, actions, and personalities, plays a role for the place in the mind

and the place becomes respectable for him (Steele, 1981: 44). Location through social relations in small and closed territories creates and reinforces a sense of belonging (Altman & Low, 1992: 12). When Place attachment grows, people begin to define themselves by place on two scales. On a larger scale (nationality, district, city) and on a smaller scale (neighborhood, home) (Pourdeihimi, Nournaghani, 2013: 4). Place attachment at the individual level involves personal communication with the place (Twigger-Ross and Uzzell, 1996). For example, place attachment is stronger than reviewing individual memories, and this type of placement attachment helps to create a sustainable sense (Scannell and Gifford, 2010: 2). Similarly, places become meaningful from important individual experiences such as: location perception, life milestones, and growth experiences of each individual (Manzo, 2005: 74). The framework for group placement attachment in different cultures, genders and religions has also been explored (Fried, 1963). Finally, place attachment at least includes two dimensions of location identity and location dependency (Woosnam et al., 2016: 2).

**Table 3: Triple Model of Place attachment (Scannell and Gifford, 2010: 2)**

<b>Process</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Person</b>
Affect: Happiness, Pride, Love	Social: Social Arena, Social Symbol	Cultural/Group: Religious, Historical
Cognition: Memory, Knowledge, Schemas, Meaning	Physical: Nature, Built	Individual: Experience, Realization, Milestones
Behavior: Proximity- maintaining, Reconstruction of Place		

### **Sense of Attachment and Sense of Security**

A sense of attachment can foster attachment to the place through the symbolic connection of the cultured person and his / her ancestors, and enhance social relationships and community membership (Scannell and Gifford, 2017: 257). The most urgent need for security in residential areas is to reinforce the sense of belonging to the neighborhood. In this regard, strategies and policies are outlined in Table 4:

**Table 4: Sense of Attachment and Increasing Sense of Security (Ghasemi Isfahani, 2013: 143-147)**

<b>Knowing the boundaries of the neighborhood</b>	<b>Memorize and reinforce memorable factors</b>	<b>Solidarity among residents</b>	<b>Encouraging long-term residence</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowing the neighborhood</li> <li>- Defined neighborhood entrance</li> <li>- Hierarchy of urban spaces</li> <li>- attention to the border of old neighborhoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and enhance gatherings and community activities in the neighborhood</li> <li>- Preserving natural and memorable artifacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of social and income level</li> <li>Transfer of public property to residents</li> <li>Partnering with several private buildings in a semi-public space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adapt the neighborhood to the current situation-</li> <li>Substitution of possession than periodic possession</li> </ul>

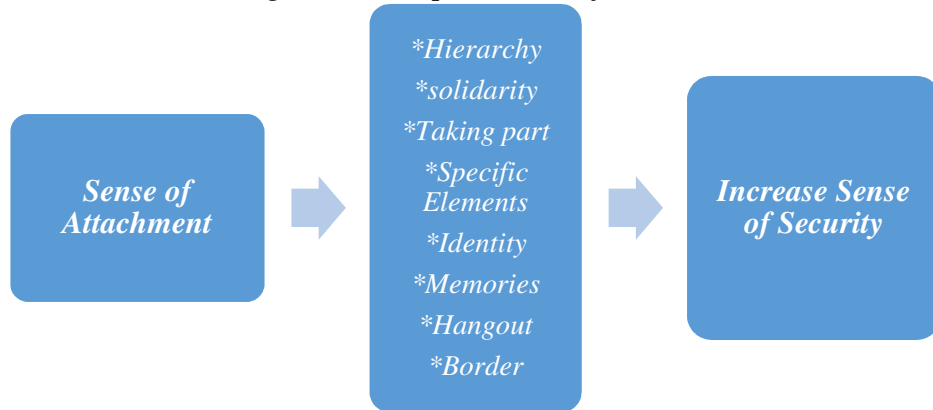
### **Methodology**

The research methodology is descriptive-analytic, the library and documents sources and the distribution of questionnaires have used by Elahieh neighborhood residents to collect information.



The sample size has estimated to be 397 people according to the population of the neighborhood and using the PASS software, the reliability of the questions has confirmed by using the Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.973. The collected data have analyzed by using SPSS software. GIS has also used to analyze the data and to display spatial data.

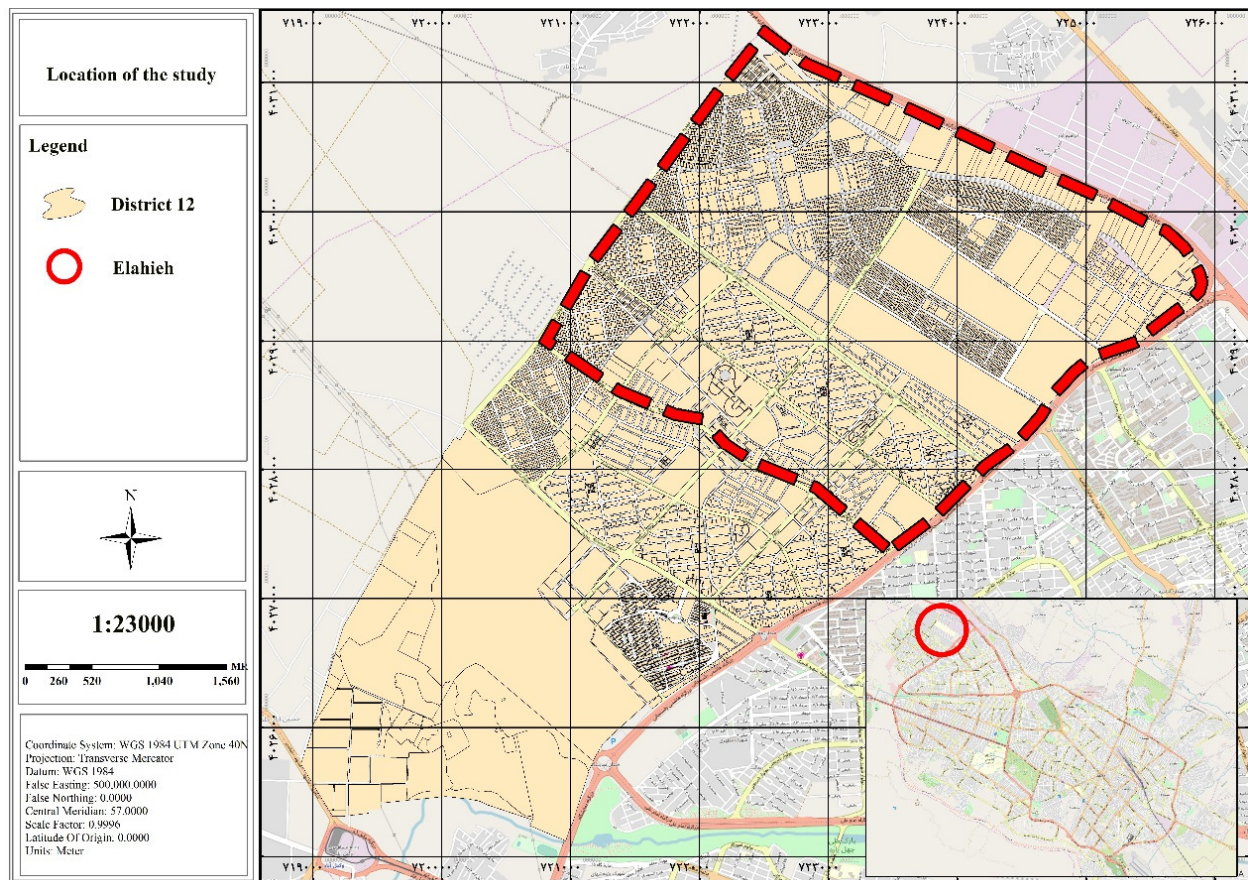
**Fig1: The conceptual model of research**



### Study area

Elahieh neighborhood is located at northwest of Mashhad in District 12 of Municipality; its population was 26674 (2016). This neighborhood is adjacent to the Ayatollah Rafsanjani and Mashhad-Quchan Highway.

**Fig 2: Location of the study**

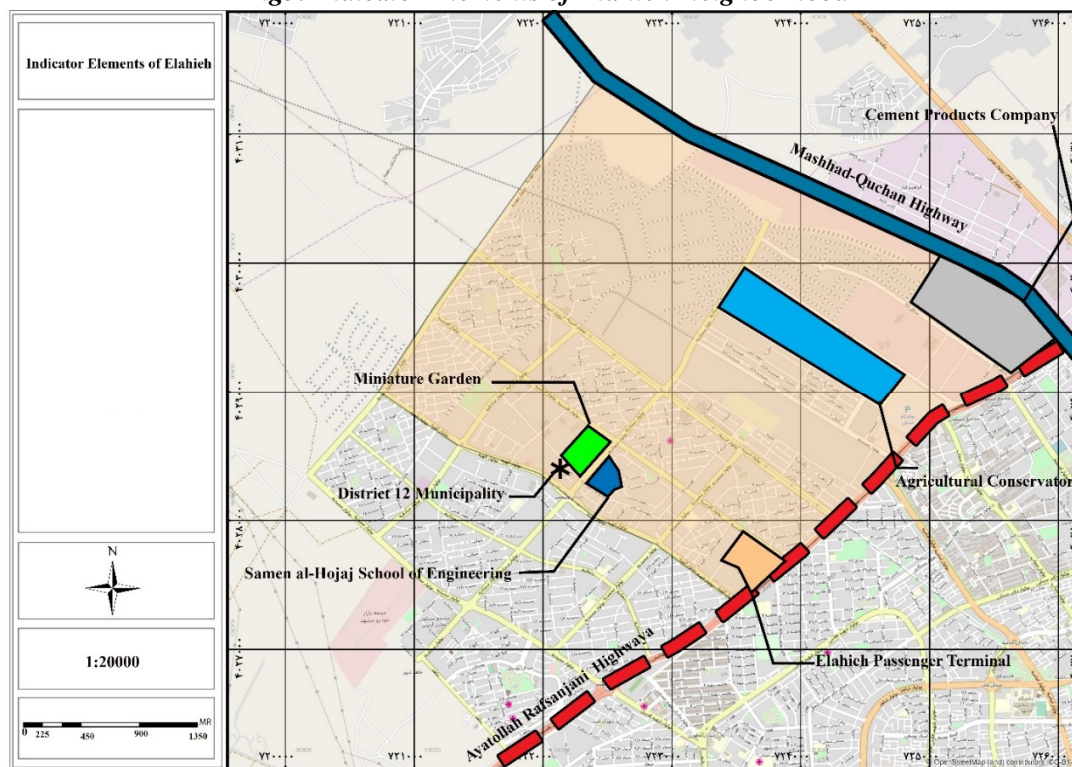


## Research findings

### Indicator Elements of Elahieh Neighborhood

Elements of the Elahieh neighborhood include an 8-hectare Miniature garden featuring small-scale antiquities historic indicators of the country, the Elahieh Passenger Terminal, the Cement Products Company, the Agricultural Conservatory, the Samen al-Hojaj School of Engineering and District 12 Municipality. Figure 3 shows the position of these elements.

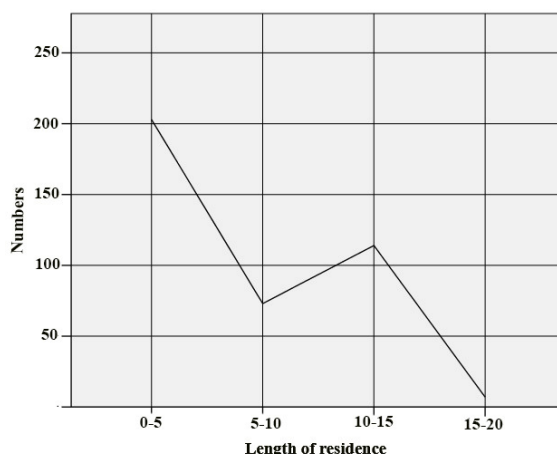
**Fig3: Indicator Elements of Elahieh Neighborhood**



### Duration of residence

Residents were not long in this neighborhood, and according to fig (4), 203 respondents lived in this neighborhood until 5 years.

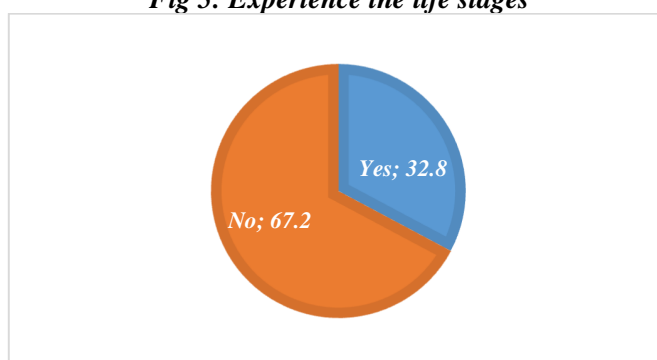
**Figure 4: Length of residence**



### Life Experience

Fig 5 illustrates the lived experiences of residents, including childhood, adolescence, youth, and so on. The figure below shows that 33 percent of residents had no life experience and 67 percent of residents did not have the experience of living in the Elahieh neighborhood.

**Fig 5: Experience the life stages**



### The level of sense of security

In Table 5, the level of sense of security of the residents of Elahieh neighborhood has examined. 49.1 percent of residents felt very low and 3.3 percent felt very safe.

**Table5: Sense of Security**

Sense of Security	No	Percent
Very Low	۱۹۵	۴۹.۱
Low	۸۲	۲۱.۴
Middle	۷۹	۱۹.۹
High	۲۵	۶.۳
Very High	۱۳	۳.۳
Sum	۳۹۷	۱۰۰

### Analyzing the sense of Attachment to the neighborhood

Chi-square test has used to analyze the sense of belonging to Elahieh neighborhood, In Table 6, the observed frequency, expected and residual frequencies have examined. According to the sample size and the number of batches studied, the expected frequency is 79.4. The closer the



number remains to zero and the smaller the expected frequency; An indication of the closeness of most of the frequencies observed and expected. Also, the highest frequency is related to very low, low, and middle the sense of attachment And the least frequency is devoted to the sense of attachment very high.

**Table6: Analyzing the sense of Attachment**

	<b>Observed frequency</b>	<b>Expected frequency</b>	<b>Residual</b>
<b>Very Low</b>	177	79.4	97.6
<b>Low</b>	99	79.4	19.6
<b>Middle</b>	95	79.4	15.6
<b>High</b>	7	79.4	-72.4
<b>Very High</b>	19	79.4	-60.4
<b>Sum</b>	397		

The results of the chi-squared test in table 7 indicate that the obtained chi-squared value is less than 0.05 and there is a difference between the observed and expected abundance.

**Table7: Result of Test**

<b>Test</b>	<b>Sense of Attachment</b>
Chi-squared	۲۳۹.۸۳۹
Df	۴
Sig	....

### **Relationship Analysis**

Spearman correlation test has used to analyze the relationships between variables. Table 8 shows the correlation between the different criteria. Correlation between the measured criteria with the sense of security shows that there is a significant relationship between the measured criteria and the sense of security. The intensity of the relationship indicates that there is a strong relationship between the criteria and a sense of security.

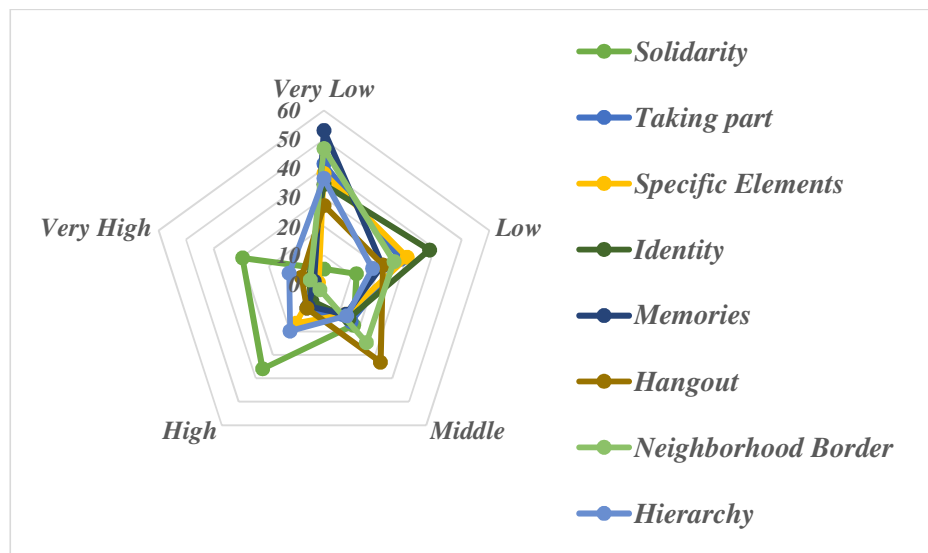
**Table 8: Factors Affecting Sense of Security**

		<b>Security</b>	<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>solidarity</b>	<b>Taking part</b>	<b>Specific Elements</b>	<b>Identity</b>	<b>memories</b>	<b>hang out</b>	<b>Border</b>
<b>Security</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	1	.936	.801	.869	.806	.844	.945	.855	.924
	<b>sig</b>	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Hierarchy</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.936	1	.836	.859	.781	.891	.921	.905	.913
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Solidarity</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.801	.836	1	.875	.877	.766	.730	.901	.861
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Taking part</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.869	.859	.875	1	.938	.742	.826	.921	.914
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397

<b>Specific Elements</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.806	.781	.877	.938	1	.659	.704	.867	.855
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Identity</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.884	.891	.766	.742	.659	1	.860	.813	.805
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Memories</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.945	.921	.703	.826	.740	.860	1	.808	.885
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Hangout</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.855	.905	.901	.921	.867	.813	.808	1	.882
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.	.000
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397
<b>Border</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficient</b>	.924	.913	.861	.914	.885	.805	.885	.882	1
	<b>sig</b>	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.
	<b>N</b>	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397	397

Figure 6 shows the percentage of the criteria under study; Solidarity (social, economic, cultural) among residents has the high and very highest value and the criteria of memories and neighborhood border and identity are the most valuable of low and very low.

**Fig 6: Percentage of Criteria Frequency**



#### **Ranking sense of Attachment criteria**

Friedman test has used to prioritize and rank the criteria of sense of attachment in Elahieh neighborhood on residents' sense of security. Table 9 shows the significance of the test; the obtained chi-squared value is 1504 with an error level of less than 5%.

**Table 9: Significance of Friedman Test**

<i>N</i>	397
<i>chi-squared</i>	1504.809
<i>df</i>	7
<i>sig</i>	.000

Table 10 shows that the highest measure of attachment in relation to a sense of security is that of solidarity with resident. Observance of the road and street hierarchies and afterwards is the status of social hangouts and important elements that increase the sense of security in the Elahieh. Criteria for sense of insecure in Elahieh are neighborhood boundary, memories, Taking part between resident, and identity.

**Table 10: Ranking of criteria in Friedman test**

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Average rank</i>
<i>Solidarity</i>	7.58
<i>Taking part</i>	3.80
<i>Specific Elements</i>	3.97
<i>Identity</i>	3.94
<i>Memories</i>	3.26
<i>Hangouts</i>	5.15
<i>Neighborhood Border</i>	3.07
<i>Hierarchy</i>	5.23

## Conclusion and Result

The need for sense of security in newly developed urban neighborhoods has strongly felt. The sense of attachment to the neighborhood makes the residents indifferent to their neighborhood and it encourages them to monitor the neighborhood. This Supervision is itself the most important guarantee of security in the neighborhood. Elahieh neighborhood of Mashhad is one of the western neighborhoods of this city that Residents feel low sense of security in the neighborhood. According to the first question of the study, one of the important factors in creating a sense of security in the neighborhoods is to know the boundary of the neighborhood that enhances a sense of attachment; In this regard, it was difficult to control locally, expanding from every direction and moving from one point to another and it causes reduces the level of security in the neighborhood. One of the strategies that enhance residents' sense of belonging is their longevity in the neighborhood and this can only happen if the home is owned by the family. Residence in this neighborhood was very low and most residents did not have the experience of living in this neighborhood. Also, long-term residence, if it has not accompanied by remembrance and memory creation, will not alone increase the sense of attachment and security in the neighborhood. Thus, an increased sense of security has achieved by a sense of attachment.

*Indicative elements and hangouts are also effective in increasing security. Keeping the road and street of the hierarchy also helps with reducing risk. Residents have a high degree of solidarity with each other and Taking part in the neighborhood results in increased sense of attachment. Ultimately, by building identity in the neighborhood, the sense of security has also enhanced. According to the second question of the study, measures of sense of attachment that influenced the level of security in Elahieh neighborhood have analyzed and finally, those measures that were effective in reducing the sense of security have identified as: The status of the neighborhood border is the amount of memory, Taking part of resident, and identity in the neighborhood. Finally, it can be concluded that a sense of attachment to the neighborhood can help increase residents' sense of security. Given the significant elements and spatial organization of the Elahieh neighborhood, reinforcing identity elements, creating social hangouts can help create a sense of attachment. The demarcation of the neighborhood for greater control and resilience of the residents in this neighborhood results in the creation of life experiences and memories.*

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