

**Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings  
Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers**

**Date: 08.09.2016**

**Title: The appropriation process of spaces and urban building (for all with any ability)**

**Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi, Mr. M. Ma'ssoumi and Mrs. L. Eslami**

The meeting begun with a film presenting the capacities of the disables in the world and their presence in the Iranian society and other countries.

Talking about his experiences Mr. Mahmoudi said that when he travels to other countries the impression is that the disables are very numerous, but the reality is that in our country we have many disables too, but the problem is that we haven't been able to create the necessary conditions to ensure their presence and participation to social life and activities. He said the problem is that we don't know how to face the difficulties and to find solutions.

Comparing the experiences of Iran and other countries we can see that the Iranian authorities and experts have a pathetic approach regarding the problems and necessities of the disables, meanwhile in other countries the approach aims to ensure the independence of the disables to move and live in the cities.

Mr. Mahmoudi talked about the interventions in urban spheres, where it is clear that there is a lack of professional approach to face the problems. At the same time it is easy to see how in other countries interventions have been successful (parking, public transports, entertainment, routs...). Regarding the social aspect they have acted to ensure the presence and participation in social life and activities, including all the components that somehow can be considered disables.

Mr. Mahmoudi talked also about the importance and role of the NGOs that group more responsible experts in different fields, some of them are MSF or engineering organizations... In some cases may be the members of these organizations are not specific experts in the field regarding the disables, but having worked hard they realized to identify are the problems and the solutions. In this context the role of the NGOs is undeniable.

The second speaker was Mr. M. Ma'ssoumi who focused on the importance of how the urban and living spaces must be designed to be usable for all of the components of the society, a fact that unfortunately is not considered seriously in Iran. He presented two foreign cases to show how other countries can succeed in this kind of programs and how in Iran in spite of spending

huge amount of money by the municipalities, the problem that regards the disables remains unresolved.

Talking about the matter Mr. Ma'ssoumi talked about the Scandinavian countries experience in the '60 of last century, where a comprehensive program includes the problems that affect the life of persons suffering different types of disabilities. The main goal of these programs is how to ensure the active participation of the disables to the social life and activities, regardless their age and level of disability. The supporters of these programs worked to minimize the falls and lacks in order to achieve the best results for the users.

In the programs that have been realized regarding the urban development all the aspects regarding the urban transport (streets, buses, crossing security, traffic conditions...) in order to create safe and reliable conditions for the society, considering especially the needs and limitations that disable people has.

Talking about the duties that different organizations must fulfill Mr. Ma'ssoumi said they have to create different departments first of all to collect the necessary information regarding the target groups, then to satisfy their request in the spheres that mostly create difficulties for a normal and active life (like using the parks facilities, transportation, moving on the streets..).

Concluding his speech Mr. Ma'ssoumi focused on the duty that the main organizations have to program the different activities, ensuring the participation of all the organizations that can have a positive role on regard.

The last speaker was Mrs. L. Eslami who talked about the appropriation process on urban building and spaces for all citizenz having different levels of ability. She began her speech talking about the disables and their right in urban sphere. To better present the matter Mrs. Eslami reported similar experiences in Iran and other countries round the world. The speaker focused on the urban spaces and social approaches in order to reduce and minimize difficulties that disables face. In her opinion any disability can limit the social rights of the disables.

The main topic that Mrs. Eslami focused on was the citizen rights. She believes that that the main content and meaning is their right to be able to communicate with other people, in order to reduce their dependence by other persons. Regarding the social communication Mrs. Eslami reported the Iranian where that is a global record, where the disables have the highest rate of marriage, that in other means the respect of their personal and social status. Another lack is the limitation to access sport facilities for disables, because often their needs are ignored.

After the presentation of the problems and lacks Mrs. Eslami expressed the idea that the solution must begin from legislative acts, so there can be legal bases for the realization of a comprehensive plan.

Mrs. Eislami presented the history of the first attempts to our days the activities realized in the world, from the Scandinavian countries in the '50 through, the approval of the appropriation law in 1961 for the wounded military staff in Korea war and the law dated 1974 by the UN for barrier free design. All these laws focused on a simple principle called "normalization", where the disables and elderly persons are considered members of the society and their rights must be respected. The idea is to ensure justice for their social rights that comprehends factors like: sustainability, water, energy, education, social vitality, health... that if ensured can bring social security and wellness.

Talking about the situation in Iran Mrs. Eslami talked about the lacks that exist between Iran and other developed countries. Considering the problems caused by the lacks she expressed the idea that meanwhile in countries like Japan the social awareness brought to the approval of the related laws, but in Iran the approval of the laws come before the social awareness. She presented many case that testify the lack of a comprehensive design and management in the urban sphere, where the activities of various organizations are not coordinated, which disturb the achievement of the goals.

Concluding her speech Mrs. Eslami talked about the route of solutions that includes an attempt to increase the social participation, beginning from the lower levels of the society that are the children, teaching them through simple tools that the disables are part of the society and their rights must be respected.