SOCIO-CULTURAL DIVISIONS AND URBAN WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES: THE CASE OF EL-MINYA CITY, EGYPT

R. SHAKER¹, O. TOLBA², AND A. FAHMY³

ABSTRACT

Waterfronts are spaces that always mirror a society’s socio-cultural contexts, where socio-cultural diversity influences waterfront activities. Few local academic papers have studied the impact of landscape attributes on activity patterns. However, this research investigates the relationship between different socio-cultural contexts and their impact on activities taking place in El-Minya city’s Nile waterfront. To achieve these objectives, the study adopts a quantitative method applying theoretical models that explore terms of urban segmentations and public recreation spaces. The research analyzes socio-cultural diversity and patterns of activities through two surveys. The first survey inquires 250 residents about their socio-cultural differences between neighborhoods, while the second survey is concerned with 1000 participants, 18 activities, and 25 landscape attributes with respect to demography and time allocations. The results show significant socio-cultural diversity between the neighborhoods of El-Minya, which influences the patterns of waterfront activities. The findings should guide researchers and designers to a better understanding of the influences of demography, socio-culture, and education on the use of recreational public spaces.

KEYWORDS: Urban neighborhood, socio-cultural diversity, recreation space, landscape attributes, waterfront activities, El-Minya, Egypt.

1. INTRODUCTION

The urban organic growth of cities was an evidence for the continuous changes over the years. These changes are manifested in urban form, demography and socio-cultural factors and economic level due to time [1]. Two research directions were suggested for better understanding of the impacts of urban design characteristics [2]. The first research direction was concerned with studying different socio-cultural groups that are manifested in urban neighborhoods [3, 4]. The second research direction attempted to study characteristics of public spaces and to identify impacts of

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socio-cultural aspects, and economic level on patterns of activities. The results should provide researchers with valuable knowledge to better designs of public spaces contributing to social cohesion.

El-Minya city has experienced dynamic changes that were reflected in the segmentation between city neighborhoods. Lifestyle, religion, income, culture, and social identity are major sets which influence the desire of groups to cluster at neighborhoods and at public spaces [5-7]. Previous literature has studied the effect of differences between neighborhoods on the behavior of residents socially and economically. This research studies the choices of El-Minya residents regarding entertainment in public waterfront spaces.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review surveyed in this section covers several issues: urban neighborhood aspects, urban segmentations and the choice of entertainment, and the historical development of El-Minya City.

2.1 Urban Neighborhood Aspects

It is utilitarian to see society with different socio-cultural groups; these groups are dividing spaces differently and maintain different social networks [5]. These differences lead to different forms of residential areas. The socio-cultural aspect influencing one’s perceptual choices on such characteristics of house form, size, landscaping, and use of streets. Homogeneous areas reflect complementary attributes of a number of people who share similar characteristics. Within time, historical changes effect on these homogeneous areas and turn them into urban neighborhoods with diverse socio-cultural contexts and architecture styles. There are major variables such as social networks, activity systems, time allocations, and behavioral settings that guide to measuring the differences of socio-cultural diversity between groups [5].

Recently, urbanists have given importance to people who live in neighborhoods; they add value with demographic characteristics, social interactions, patterns of activity and economic aspects [8]. Two major dimensions were suggested to define meaning and value of neighborhoods which are presented in social and physical dimensions [8]. Back to our Egyptian cities, culture and religion have
influenced the forming of urban neighborhoods and the shaping of our characters [1, 2]. The various forms of entertainment including games, sport and activities help to shape the character of families and societies [9]. Researchers have investigated the impact of culture on resident’s houses and flats. For example, Residents of El-Minya city at some urban neighborhoods changed the exterior space to suit their needs, life, and socio-cultural conditions [10]. Residents modified spaces such as balconies to turn into areas to raise chickens and pets or become an extra bedroom and kitchens to turn into bedroom or workspaces [10].

2.2 Urban Segmentations and the Choice of Entertainment

Urban societies around the world are increasingly categorized by socio-cultural heterogeneity [2, 3]. There are many factors enhancing the segmentation between neighborhoods. If we look at the history of cities, we can see clearly that urban forms and planning influence human behavior and the ways in which cities operate [11]. As a result of diversity of socio-cultural aspects and economic level, cities become categorized by segmentation manifested in residents’ background, education, number of owned cars, club membership, ways of entertainment, and income [5, 11, 12]. Immigration, ethnic difference, and religious issues are great dominants influencing lifestyle and pattern of activities [6, 13]. Income, number of owned cars and education are direct factors that limit choosing the neighborhood [13-15].

All these factors control the choice of each group in entertainment activities [5, 16]. For example, some groups prefer going to malls for shopping, some groups prefer going for a walk, while others prefer going to eat and sightsee. People may go to the same place at the same time but with different uses. The choices of entertainment activity usually depend on socio-cultural aspect, economic level, and time allocations.

2.3 Historical Developments of El-Minya City

El-Minya City lies on the western bank of the Nile River. It is located about 245 km south of Cairo. El-Minya City has a linear shape parallel to the Nile River. The population of El-Minya city is 973,418 roughly 19% of total residents of El-Minya governorate [17]. El-Minya city is directly affected by desert climate due to
geographic location, with high temperatures during summer and low temperatures during winter.

El-Minya city has been historically divided into a number of neighborhoods as shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1. The traditional neighborhood was the nucleus of the city growth [10]. The growth was continued north with the colonial neighborhood till the 17th century. In the beginning of the 20th century, the new developments in the urban neighborhoods were followed by crowding neighborhoods that led to the existence of the modern neighborhood. The public housing neighborhoods was established by governmental decisions in 1965. As a result of the over crowdedness, the informal settlement began to appear. Today, all neighborhoods have renovations with modern concrete buildings. In the beginning of 18th century, the Nile waterfront was planned as a public green space for recreational activities with landscape elements [10].

Table 1. Historical developments of El-Minya city [10].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Traditional neighborhood</th>
<th>Colonial neighborhood</th>
<th>Modern neighborhood</th>
<th>Public-housing neighborhood</th>
<th>Informal Settlement neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 1880</td>
<td></td>
<td>Between 1908 and 1940</td>
<td>In 1970</td>
<td>In 1965</td>
<td>In 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area 784,000 m²</td>
<td></td>
<td>540,000 m²</td>
<td>600,000 m²</td>
<td>104,000 m²</td>
<td>90,000 m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 79,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>53,000</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Density (person/m²)</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture theme</td>
<td>Islamic architecture</td>
<td>The boulevard western architecture</td>
<td>Mixture of styles</td>
<td>Typical buildings</td>
<td>Slums turns into unfinished concrete buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open public spaces</td>
<td>Small squares</td>
<td>Formal open spaces</td>
<td>Few small squares</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of Waterfront</td>
<td>Socio-cultural space for sharing talks, washing clothes and dishes.</td>
<td>Private space for people who built their houses on riverbank.</td>
<td>Unplanned green land next to street lane.</td>
<td>Public space due to neighborhood form.</td>
<td>Public space for fishing and sharing talks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. URBAN WATERFRONTS

This section introduces urban waterfronts and their activity patterns as well as some international cases.

3.1 Meaning and Use of Waterfronts

Waterfronts can be defined as a place of integrating land with water with a natural attraction to people [18]. They usually reflect the social, cultural, and economical differences of users [19, 11]. The meaning of public places is given when interactions and activities take place on them [2, 3, 20-22]. The socio-cultural dimension is introduced when many people from different cultures do many different activities in the same place at the same time [5, 23, 24]. Recreation spaces provide major individual and group benefits in terms of physical, emotional, health, and needs of participants [9].

People, usually, go to public spaces for physical uses and socio-cultural activities [18, 24-26]. These spaces are used by people to do gatherings with relatives, strangers, and friends [27, 28]. Waterfronts play a significant role in encouraging people to do socio-cultural activities. The connections between city residents and waterfronts are manifested in uses and activities residents made on waterfront due to their culture [24]. The waterfront gets the value when landscape attributes exist and activities are taking place [29, 30]. Waterfront activities, which relate to socio-cultural contexts, are different from one society to another. Such activities include washing...
clothes and plates in Ecuador, relaxing and swimming in Munich, and religious purposes in India [24].

Egypt is a different case, its waterfront has mixed uses and activities based on the surrounding urban context. Washing, fishing, and transportation were the most important purposes of river banks in Egypt. By the end of 20th century, the banks became larger for public access by a series of private clubs and restaurants, as well as heavily used roads along the river banks [24, 31]. Nowadays, the river banks are locations of high-rise mixed-use buildings, hotels, and rich apartments [10, 24].

3.2 Activity Patterns and Landscape Attributes

The term “activity” can be subjected to the action manifested through work, social events, hobbies, vacation, or shopping [24, 29]. Variety of gender and age enhances diverse patterns of using public spaces [16, 19, 32]. The word “movement” can explain how places are used for some activities such as walking, running, playing, relaxing, watching, etc. These movements provide opportunities for socio-cultural interactions and connections to identify the density of use and activity patterns [19, 29]. Diversity and vitality are two main aspects that define the range of activities within place [33]. The concept of vitality refers to the number of people using the space during day, the vitality depends on the possibility for economic, social, and cultural transactions that lead to diverse patterns of activities [33]. Meanwhile, the concept of diversity relates to the uses and activities that guarantee the success of an urban public space [33].

People are attracted to locations if they contain elements that fulfill their needs [34]. Several features influence, positively or negatively, on using public space [35]. Few literature assess the functions of elements on activities. There are some natural elements that enhance specific activities, such as trees and soft green grounds, which enhance walking, pets walk and sports activities [16, 36].

3.3 International Case Studies

Jacob Riis Park Beach in New York was the first case study concerned with design characteristics and elements [37]. The case showed results of three different bays of the same beach with different socio-cultural groups and uses. The urban
neighborhoods around the park were separated in socio-cultural aspects and economic level. Bay (1) was isolated with few landscape elements. Users cluster in groups and tend to segregate by gender. People used to bring their supplies like umbrellas, chairs, radios and boom boxes. While at bay (5, 6), there were plenty of facilities such parking lots, showers, landmarks and food courts; these made the bays crowded around the clock. People walk on the boardwalk, sit or hang out in groups on benches and ride bicycle on sidewalks. The users were mostly young adults with high education [37]. Bay (14) was poor in facilities like showers, food, or restrooms. The bay was full of young adults who hang out at beaches for hours. The users were mostly men grouping in 5 or 6 members. Most users were white race with the same socio-cultural background. They stand around their coolers for socializing.

The Tianjin waterfront in China was the second case study concerned with the number of visits, duration, recreation activities, livability of space, and needs, in addition to few demographic issues [16]. The waterfront is divided historically into four sites. Such design characteristics as trees, green area, pavements, or ground surface had a significant influence on pattern of activities. The clear areas from vegetation that enhances recreation activities like walking and cultural sports. Also, the age of users influenced duration of activities and number of visits to different sites. The users usually spend 1 to 3 hours per visits despite users of one site.

4. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study was based on a quantitative method built on two designed surveys. SPSS was used as a computer program to statistically understand the characteristics of each neighborhood and waterfront spaces.

4.1 Survey Design

The first (city) survey aimed to define the segmentation between the neighborhoods and perception of choosing public spaces. It was conducted on November 2016 for 250 persons divided into groups of 50 from each of the five neighborhood of El-Minya city. It mainly analyzed the relationship between the socio-cultural status and economic level and perception of choices of public space. It was designed in three main sections. The first section included questions about basic
demographic information as well as residential background. The second section inquired about perception of visiting recreation spaces. The third section included questions about socio-economic issues such as income, number of owned cars, and number of children.

The relations between socio-cultural diversity and perception of using public spaces required another survey to gain knowledge about activities, duration, and landscape attributes. The waterfront survey was administered on May 2017 to 1000 subject. The survey was held with users of the Nile Waterfront to identify diverse activities, landscape attributes, and timing. The survey was composed of two main sections. The first section inquired about the main activity in using Nile Waterfront, while the second section included questions to explore patterns of other activities from the same user.

4.2 Studied Site

El-Minya Nile waterfront data was collected through site visits where landscape elements along the linear public space were observed. A pilot survey assessed the entire length of the city’s waterfront. The northern section of the waterfront was chosen due to the rich landscape elements. Behavioral and physical observation maps were fulfilled through workdays and weekends. The chosen site had a length of 1.5 kilometer.

Based on author’s observation [38], and as shown on Figs. 2, 3, El-Minya Nile waterfront was established through history with variety of uses and activities. The Nile waterfront of El-Minya city is a green open rectangular shape parallel to the Nile bank with average width of 40 to 80 meters. It contains 2 main entrances and 2 minor ones. Each entrance contains a plaza, figure, historic landmark, or a fountain. In between, there is a huge green space surrounded by fences, trees, and various kinds of benches. Also, the site contains a number of kiosks, cafeterias, street vendors and public and private kids’ areas. The waterfront has two pedestrian pathways that average 2 – 6 meters in width. There is a public toilet service. A river sidewalk exists lower than waterfront level within 6 meters that contains half circle seats parallel to the river level. The studied site is limited between the two main entrances.
5. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Diversity of El-Minya Urban Neighborhoods and Waterfront Space

The first survey was designed to analyze socio-cultural and economic variations between El-Minya city neighborhoods. The sample consisted of 22% of singles and 78% of married couples. They ranged from less than 30 years to more than 60 years old. The results show the following:

5.1.1 Previous residence of neighborhood residents

As shown in Fig. 4, public housing and informal settlement neighborhoods have the maximum percentages with groups who came from places outside the city. The traditional neighborhood has a maximum percentage with groups who moved from
other neighborhoods inside the city. While the modern neighborhood has a maximum percentage with groups who move from other neighborhoods.

![Bar chart showing previous residence of neighborhood residents.](image)

**Fig. 4.** Previous residence of neighborhood residents.

### 5.1.2 Education level

The modern and colonial neighborhoods have similar high percentages of high educated groups unlike other neighborhoods. The traditional neighborhood, informal settlement and public housing have very close percentages, with low, medium and high educated groups as shown in Fig. 5.

![Bar chart showing education level in different neighborhoods.](image)

**Fig. 5.** Education level in the different neighborhoods of El-Minya city.

### 5.1.3 Monthly income

Table 2 shows that the majority of traditional, public housing, and informal settlement neighborhoods have monthly income less than 5000 LE, while the majority of the colonial neighborhood has monthly income between 5000 and 15000 LE. The modern neighborhood has different percentage of monthly income, where more than 64% of total sample has more than 15000 LE monthly.
Table 2. Average of monthly income of each neighborhood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Traditional neighborhood</th>
<th>Colonial neighborhood</th>
<th>Modern neighborhood</th>
<th>Public housing neighborhood</th>
<th>Informal settlement neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 5000 LE</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5000 and 15000 LE</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 15000 LE</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1.4 Club membership

Noticing the detailed results, the modern neighborhood is different from the other neighborhoods, having the maximum percentage of the groups who have club memberships. The colonial neighborhood occupies the second rank in the number of groups who have club memberships. Otherwise, the traditional, public housing, and informal settlement neighborhoods have close ratios within this variant (see Table 3).

Table 3. Percentage of club membership within neighborhoods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Traditional neighborhood</th>
<th>Colonial neighborhood</th>
<th>Modern neighborhood</th>
<th>Public housing neighborhood</th>
<th>Informal settlement neighborhood</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>67.3%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1.5 Numbers of family owned cars

The number of owned cars of the modern and colonial neighborhood are significantly different from other neighborhoods. While the public housing, informal settlement and traditional neighborhoods are close within the minimum percentages of the number of owned cars, as shown in Fig. 6.

Fig. 6. Number of family owned cars within neighborhoods.
5.1.6 Perception of entertainment and number of visits to Waterfront

The multiple comparisons show that modern and colonial neighborhoods have no significant differences between each other. Their residents prefer going to private spaces like restaurants and clubs. Residents of the traditional, public housing and informal settlement neighborhoods prefer going to the waterfront space, public squares, and commercial streets for leisure, as shown in Fig. 7. The five neighborhoods have the same frequency of visiting Nile waterfront space.

![Fig. 7. Place of entertainment at El-Minya waterfront.](image)

5.2 Nile Waterfront Survey Results

This survey investigated the factors influencing participant’s perceptions of different activities. Participants were selected randomly. The sample consisted of 569 males and 413 females including: 230 participants from the modern neighborhood, 226 from the colonial neighborhood, 231 from the traditional neighborhood, 99 from the public housing neighborhood, 122 from the informal settlement neighborhood, and 93 from residents outside El-Minya city. Participants ranged from less than 30 years to more than 60 years old.

5.2.1 Neighborhoods and Activities

The results showed that the modern neighborhood and the colonial neighborhood have similar waterfront activities. The modern neighborhood has a priority for pet walks, friends’ gatherings and waterfront private spaces as shown in Fig. 8. High percentages of participants from the colonial neighborhood go for reading, walking and social activities as shown in Figs. 9 and 10 show convergent
percentages between activities for the traditional neighborhood, they mostly go for sports, fishing and sailing. The public housing and informal settlement neighborhoods almost have same activities like family gatherings, cultural activities and watching as shown in Figs. 11-13 shows that users out of El-Minya city mostly do wedding celebrations, photography and visit private spaces.

5.2.2 Timing of activities

There are limited activities during early morning (6 am to 10 am), bicycle and sports activities are the major as shown on Fig. 14. The rates of practicing activities increase at 10 am, roughly as shown in Fig. 15, and keep increasing till 10 pm as
shown on Figs. 16, 17. There are some activities that are mostly limited to specific timing like walking activity is from 2 pm to 10 pm. Friends gathering, social events and street visitor are the known night activities as shown on Fig. 18, while fishing, sailing, reading, and waiting activity are as day activities. Watching, enjoyment of space and walking are the activities that go around the clock as shown in Fig. 19.

Fig. 14. Activities from 6 am to 10 am.

Fig. 15. Activities from 10 am to 2 pm.

Fig. 16. Activities from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Fig. 17. Activities from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Fig. 18. Activities from 10 pm to 2 am.

Fig. 19. Activities around the clock.

5.2.3 Duration of activities

Results show that users spend different durations on practicing diverse activities at the Nile Waterfront. Figure 20 shows that street visitor, pet walks and walking are the most practiced activities that take less than 1 hour. Figure 21 shows that photography, riding bicycle and social events are the most marked activities that take up to 2 hours. However, street waterfront spaces and private waterfront spaces take
duration of 2 to 3 hours as, shown in Fig. 22. In addition, family gatherings and enjoying space take the highest percentages of 3 to 4 hours duration as shown in Fig. 23. Finally, family gathering and cultural activities may take more than 4 hours as shown in Fig. 24.

5.2.4 Landscape attributes and activities

The shown percentages resulted in the percentages of Yes or No answers of each landscape attribute for each activity are presented below:

Presence of fountains help in creating wedding celebration and photography activities as shown in Fig. 25. Street pavement enhances wedding celebration, pet walks, cultural events and photography as shown in Fig. 26. Waterfront sidewalks help in all activities except reading, fishing/sailing, street visitor, and visiting private places as shown in Fig. 27. Benches are used in enjoyment of space, pet walks, photography, watching, and friends gathering as shown in Fig. 28, unlike benches with tables that are used in social events and family gatherings, as shown in Fig. 29. Green areas encourage users in wedding celebrations, pet walks, photography, reading, and family gathering, as shown in Fig. 30. Trees promote all activities except cultural events,
fishing/sailing and riding bicycle, as shown in Fig. 31. Participants of enjoyment of space, street visitor, photography, waiting, family and friends’ gatherings usually buy from street vendor and kiosks as shown in Figs. 32, 33. Cafeterias help in waiting, visiting private waterfront spaces, social events, reading, as shown in Fig. 34. Fences are used in wedding celebration, street visitor, cultural events, photography and watching as shown in Fig. 35. Squares strongly influence wedding celebrations, cultural events, photography, and watching, as shown in Fig. 36. Landmarks help in creating wedding celebrations and photography activities as shown in Fig. 37. View and climate are strong motivations for all activities at waterfront space as shown in Figs. 38, 39. The sun encourages users to enjoy space, perform cultural activities and family gathering, and do some reading, as shown in Fig. 40. Presence of shade and shadow encourages users to do recreational activities, as shown in Fig. 41. Lighting promotes wedding celebrations, street visitor, social events and watching as shown in Fig. 42. Entrances promote all activities except riding bicycle and visiting private street places as shown in Fig. 43. Restrooms are used by users of wedding celebration and family gatherings as shown in Fig. 44. Kid’s areas are used by users who enjoying space, waiting, photography, and family gathering as shown in Fig. 45. Private kid’s areas are used by groups who visit street places, do photography, family and friends gathering as shown in Fig. 46. River sidewalk helps in sports, fishing/sailing, photography, watching and sports as shown in Fig. 47. River seating encourages users to enjoy space, do fishing/sailing, reading and watching as shown in Fig. 48. Pictures of some landscape attributes are presented below as shown in Figs. 49-55.
Fig. 25. Activities using fountains.

Fig. 26. Activities using street pavement.

Fig. 27. Activities using waterfront sidewalk.

Fig. 28. Activities using benches.

Fig. 29. Activities using benches with tables.

Fig. 30. Activities using green area.

Fig. 31. Activities using trees.

Fig. 32. Activities using street vendor.

Fig. 33. Activities using kiosk.

Fig. 34. Activities using cafeterias.

Fig. 35. Activities using fences.

Fig. 36. Activities using squares.

Fig. 37. Activities using landmarks.

Fig. 38. Activities using view.
Fig. 39. Activities using climate.

Fig. 40. Activities using sun.

Fig. 41. Activities using shade and shadow.

Fig. 42. Activities using lightings.

Fig. 43. Activities using entrances.

Fig. 44. Activities using restrooms.

Fig. 45. Activities using kids’ area.

Fig. 46. Activities using private kid’s area.

Fig. 47. Activities using river sidewalk.

Fig. 48. Activities using river seating.

Fig. 49. Private and public kid areas.

Fig. 50. Kiosks and cafeterias.

Fig. 51. Green areas with different uses.

Fig. 52. Entrances and squares.
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research investigates the influence of socio-cultural and socio-economic differences on the pattern of activities. The research tests the use of landscape attributes that promote activities between different socio-cultural groups. The methodology is conducted through two surveys, which result in promising data for further research. The results show socio-cultural and economic segmentation between El-Minya city neighborhoods. The modern and colonial neighborhoods have socio-cultural and economic similarities that are manifested in the use of waterfront activities and used landscape attributes. The public housing and informal settlement neighborhoods have their own similarities. However, the traditional neighborhood has specific socio-cultural and economic contexts that are reflected in the entertainment choices [6, 16].

People may use the same place at the same time but not with same activity. It is all about the culture and social aspect [11]. Based on the results, we should conclude that the quality and variety of landscape attributes are the main factors for the duration of activities [33]. Need and demography are the main factors that add deep layers of analysis of how people enjoy the waterfront [29, 30, 39, 40]. Age, gender, relationship status, and the number of children control the choices of leisure and time allocations. Additionally, groups who have club membership and own private cars may act differently during leisure time.
Two international case studies were previously presented. The first case is Jacob Riis Beach Park in New York. The results were close to El-Minya waterfront. The high socio-economic groups gather at private space around the waterfront for enjoying time, pet walks, and walking. The low-income socio-economic groups use waterfront space for social events to gather with relatives and friends using kiosks, green areas, and sidewalk for recreation. The users bring their supplies like recorders, towels, food and drinks to avoid buying needs. The medium-income socio-cultural groups use different landscape attributes on diverse activities such as reading, fishing, sailing, and sports activities [37]. The second case is Tianjin, China introduces huge knowledge regarding the impact of landscape attributes, durations, needs and demography on the pattern of activities, as well as the case of El-Minya waterfront’s results that were similar [45].

El-Minya Waterfront has activities around the clock as other cities [41]. Comparing watching activity with another international case, the results were same [42]. Watching is popular to the age of youth and groups who work near public spaces. They are mainly seated in squares and edges. The male youth up to 40 years in high school and diploma who are coming from surrounding neighborhoods, do watching activity between 1-2 hours from 2 pm to 10 pm roughly. They use street vendors, kiosks, fences as attraction points. This activity depends on the variety of uses surrounding public space. The previous results showed that there are some activities like social gathering, watching, enjoyment the space, walking and watching, may be practiced with different duration depending on the user’s gender, age and relationship [43, 44].

Therefore, the results can help landscape architects design recreational spaces in relation to the different groups of users they want to attract. Since diverse socio-cultural groups have different preferences for landscape attributes, adding specific landscape attributes can attract more groups for new activities [32]. The authors suggest more investigations into the effect of socio-cultural contexts on patterns of activity in public and private parks that do not face the waterfront. It is also worth
noting that the results of this study may not apply to other cities in Egypt, and further studies are worthwhile.

REFERENCES


التقسيمات الاجتماعية-الثقافية والأنشطة الشاطئية
حالة مدينة المنيا، مصر

يتناول البحث دراسة الدور المحتمل للتقسيمات الاجتماعية والثقافية خاصية بين المجاورات الحضرية في مدينة المنيا التي تؤثر على نمط الأنشطة الشاطئية في كورنيش المدينة حيث ينتمى البحث طريقة استنتاجية تلاحظ الأنشطة من خلال استبانين. الأول أستعمل 500 ساكن عن حالتهم الاجتماعية والثقافية في المجاورات السكنية، بينما الثاني أتمنى ب 1000 مشترك و18 نشاط و25 عنصر تسيق للأماكن الترفيهية طبقاً للوقت وقد أظهرت النتائج تقسيمات ثقافية إجتماعيه بين المجاورات، هذا وترشد الاستنتاجات الباحثين والمصممين لفهم أفضل لتأثير علم السكان والثقافة والاجتماع والاقتصاد والتعليم على استخدام المناطق الترفيهية لإرضاء المستخدمين واحتياجاتهم.