Analysis of Social Damages Caused by Slums of Ahvaz Metropolitan

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Abstract
The sense of insecurity in a neighborhood is not only caused by violent crimes but also anomalies and disruptive behaviors like drug addiction, vagrancy, beggary and theft, not only are main factors for public fear and sense of insecurity, but also in their own turns, definitely provide the grounds for major expanse of crimes, just like if a window in a building was shattered and left like that, the whole building will soon fall into pieces. In order to prevent the fall of the society, at the time of the break of the first window, the disrupted must be punished immediately. The subject of slums is one of the urban issues that have been in the attention of law, justice and criminology experts because of the fact that slums are grounds for committing crimes. The fact that more crimes are committed in slums is unanimously accepted and statistics from cases in the justice department are also witnesses to this notion. In this study, the goal of the researcher is to show the effects of living in slums on the occurrence of social damages such as drug addiction. The method of the research was bibliotheca. In this article, an image of slumming, and then, the crimes that are committed in these areas will be thoroughly analyzed.

Keywords: slum areas, social damage, Ahvaz metropolitan, Ahvaz slumming

Introduction
Experts in urban matters have presented various definitions for slumming. Some believe that slum dogs are those who live in the economical range of the city but are not absorbed to the social and economic system. Charles Abrams calls slum as the process of occupying areas and considers slumming as something that in general includes all the people who come to the city to find shelter and reside in the economical range of the city but are not absorbed by the urban economy. The glamour of urbanism and urban welfare have brought them away from their birthplaces and pulled them to the industrial hubs and labor markets. Most of them are rural immigrants who come to cities for better lives. The definition that is presented for slumming is the structure or some of the city in which destruction, insufficiency of giving health services, population compression in residential units, lack of welfare and also the dangers resulted from natural causes such as floods. Lack of security, the currency of crime and also being a safe house for criminals are items that should be added to the above mentioned definition. Marshall Clinard states that: "Slumming is an urban issue and slums are often the source for a major share of felony and crime, it also takes various forms." Therefore, it can be concluded that a slum dog is an either immigrant or non-immigrant who due to lack of authority, guild expertise, powerful economical support, a social class and culture in coordination with the common and necessary urban class and culture, is located on the margins of the city. These people leave their towns because of shortcomings and ill factors in their birth places rather than the attractive urban factors. They are rejected because of the lack of coordination with urban environment on the one hand and on the other hand the urban repellent factors and they gradually reside in chained or segregated areas in parts of the city in a way that their place of living and the type of their housing is in contrast with urban regulations and their ownership is often a usurp. These people are also different from urban population in terms of cultural and economic conditions.
Slumming and Unauthorized Accommodation in the City of Ahvaz

Slumming and unauthorized accommodation in the city of Ahvaz is a phenomenon that has taken place following structural evolutions and the occurrence of social, political, economic, cultural and physical issues and also the rapid trend of urbanism and unrestrained rural immigration. Population analysis of the city of Ahvaz, during the years 1956 to 1991 show a growth rate of more than 4 percent and due to the imposed war on Iran, the trend of immigration from border towns to Ahvaz became faster during the decade from 1976 to 1986. Today, this city is the seventh metropolitan of the country and faces a lot of issues and problems for its urban citizens. Some welfare, cultural, professional and educational facilities have caused an increase in the motivation for immigrating to Ahvaz and therefore a sudden, uncoordinated and abnormal growth. Therefore, such a process has led to insufficient access to housing, urban services, insufficient transportation system, unemployment and the spread of poverty in Ahvaz. So the ever increasing growth of urban population has surpassed the capacities of governmental and non-governmental organizations for development and giving services and facilities and has caused the fulfillment of the needs of low income sectors of the society in the legal range of the city. The need for work forces and immigration was in the past and now, unfortunately, it has come up in the form of social issues in a way that the city is unable to solve them. Unauthorized city building is the term that can be given to the unauthorized, unrestrained, non-standard and uneven construction process which has been taking place around the city of Ahvaz. In this trend, a great number of immigrants who are unemployed come to Ahvaz and face the restraining legal barriers and reside in the margin parts of the city.

Slumming History

Slumming is a social phenomenon and is not particular to the present age and is rooted in past times and ages. It is seen in both developed and developing countries. The only difference it has between developed and developing countries lie in the historical origins that created it and also its skeletal and social behavior. The country of Iran has not been safe from this phenomenon, namely in the city of Tabriz; but the extreme conditions that are seen in some countries such as Brazil, India, Peru and some African countries are not seen in Iran. But in terms of history, it is as old in Iran as in other countries. In Iran and before the beginning of the 1960s, urbanism had a slow growth and at the dawn of the 1960s only 33 percent of the Iranian population lived in the cities. With the execution of the land reforms in that decade and the increase in oil incomes in the 1960s, urbanism gained more speed and it became so fast that in 1978, 64 percent of the population were living in cities. Of course, this equation has changed for the more percentage of urbanism in present conditions as a great number of these slum dogs are immigrants from villages and small towns and their main problem now is where to live. They are looking for a land in which they could build a house and as the lands in those areas are more affordable they go there and form areas that in their turn and gradually change and take the form of cities themselves; cities with slums full of unauthorized houses. Tehran's Islamshahr which was formerly known as Shadishahr is a famous example. And that is how slumming is formed in Iran.

Reasons for the Emergence of Slumming

- Shortage of land
- Immigration
- Economic, social and environmental inequalities
- Physical factors
- Internal and external factors (religion, ethnicity, location, occupation, proprietorship, government's policies, etc.)
• Immigrants' lack of access to official urban jobs
• Rapid industrial growth, population growth, lack of zoning, decentralization, lack of education and poverty
• Management of land and lack of a planning that would respond to the needs of everyone
• Growth in the urban population and the out casting of low income population to the surrounding areas of the city
• Natural disasters
• Shortcomings of the official land and housing markets in response to the needs of a vast sector of low income population

Reason for Immigration and Slumming of the City of Ahvaz

One of the reasons for the unrestrained growth and expansion of the city of Ahvaz is the issue of slumming that is caused by the entrance of the immigrants to the city. In the city of Ahvaz, the issue of slumming is a dependent to the slumming trend all over the country. According to a study done in 1973 by the researchers in the Social Studies and Researches Foundation of Tehran University about slumming in the city of Ahvaz, the start of slumming dates back to before 1950 but it had a slow growth at that time. It was in the 1960s that following the land reforms and the trend of rural immigrants that shortage and lack of lands and slumming became a rapid trend. Based on this study, about 75 percent of the slum dog families in the slums of the city of Ahvaz were of rural origins.

A) Land reforms: Before 1920, most of the population transportations were related to the transportations of ethnicities and nomads. In the year 1962, various economic, social and political evolutions in Khuzestan province caused the flow of rural immigrants who had few or no lands to the cities that was followed by the rapid growth of slumming. Land reforms, changes in the economic and social structure of the country, relative expansion of economical, enterprise evolutions and the changes that followed, the concentration of investments on the agriculture sector, especially is urban areas, the rise in the price of oil, down pour of oil money, etc. have been intensifying the differences between urban and rural areas.

B) Oil: Appearance of oil fields in Khuzestan, around Ahvaz and oil pipes crossing the province to other provinces, increased the needs of the city of Ahvaz to simple and expert workers and also engineers and caused the immigration of these work forces from other areas to Ahvaz. Therefore, in the period from 1966 to 1976, Khuzestan became one of the hubs for accepting immigrants and the higher prices of oil in 1974 intensified that trend. Construction of the huge facilities of Oil Company, petrochemicals, piping company, Ahvaz Pipes increased the importance of Ahvaz and its population increased from 332000 in 1966 to 489795 in 1976.

C) Industrial activities: The concentration of industrial activities and major companies that were in their first stages of activity were among the main reasons in attracting immigrants to the province. Added to oil industries, sugar cane purification companies, pharmaceuticals, ice companies, mosaic companies, economical and official facilities, airport, the establishment of rail roads, bridges, university and faculties, etc. increased day to day and added to the importance, expansion and flourishing of the city of Ahvaz and caused notable advances.

D) The Imposed War: Analysis of the population of the city of Ahvaz during the years 1956 to 1991 shows an average of more than 4 percent in growth rate changes. In the decade starting from 1976 and ending in 1986, due to the imposed war on Iran and the immigration of the people from border towns of the province to the city of Ahvaz, the growth rate becomes more rapid. The eight years of war between Iraq and Iran and the destruction of Khorrampshahr and Abadan, together with the big centers of occupations, port facilities, oil refinery and similar facilities caused the forced
immigration of people from these regions to Ahvaz. They resided in Ahvaz and its suburbs; places like Eyndo, Mallashye, Kout Abdullah and Kout Seyyed Saleh. The most important outcome of the immigration of people from rural areas to the cities is the slumming crisis. According to studies, about 80 percent of the cities' slum dogs are rural immigrants. Based on a research done in the year 1975 about the reasons of immigration to Ahvaz, most of the immigrants mentioned war and its consequences as reasons for their immigration. A great number of the people who immigrated to Ahvaz and its slums are people who have lost their money and tools of living during the imposed war. Therefore, some of these immigrants resided in the marginal points and caused the gradual formation of slums and the expansion of the city.

**Slum Neighborhoods of the City of Ahvaz**

- Slum neighborhoods of the north eastern part of the city: Zergaan, Zouvieh
- Slum neighborhoods of the eastern part of the city: Hasirabaad, Manba Aab, Al Safi, Kouy Taaher
- Slum neighborhoods of the southern part of the city: Kout Abdullah, Kaantex, Qale Chenaan, Jangieh, Choneybe
- Slum neighborhoods of the south western part of the city: Mallashie, Goldasht, Golbahaar, Krishaan, Razmandegaan city
- Slum neighborhoods of the western part of the city: Sheleng Abaad, Sayyahi, Eyndo.

**Criminal Acts or Felonies in Slum Neighborhoods**

**Criminal Acts or Felonies Before or During the Formation of Slumming**

Change in the function of the lands: With regard to the fact that usually the function of the lands which are formed as slums is not residential and may have agricultural, gardening and greenery functions. Therefore, the first step taken in the creation of slums is the trespassing of laws in the law for keeping the functions of agricultural lands and gardens that was passed in 1995, the law of keeping and expanding greenery in the cities which was passed in 1980 and the law prohibiting the allowance of lands that do not have residential functions that was passed in 2002. There are several cases related to this matter in the courts now.

Forceful possession: According to article 690 of Islamic punishment law, forceful possession is a felony and in case the conditions mentioned in the article were proven, the criminal can serve from one month to a year in prison and has to remove the forceful possession. As one of the characteristics of slumming is the forceful possession of properties without the permission of the real proprietor of those lands by the immigrants, therefore, putting up the case from the both retributive and legal aspects is one of the issues that justice departments face. Since usually the reasons presented by the two sides for proving their ownership are regular documents or witness testimonies which are given from both sides against each other, investigating and proving the righteousness of the claims of both sides is a difficult time consuming task. There are many cases that were presented in courts that usually the delay in their completion causes the occurrence of disagreements or sometimes other felonies.

Selling other's properties: A land that its propriety to the occupant (slum dog) is basically not proven is occupied and constructed in without permission and then it is transformed by regular or even official documents of propriety which are discussed in the two articles of 147 and 148 of registration. These lands are in some cases properties of the government. Then the governments are involved in cases that people claim the lands to be theirs based on their own ownership documents and those in the office of properties registration. As in most cases the source of the occupant's (slum dog) ownership is not clear, therefore, the selling of other's properties has happened and the
criminal, based on the law regarding the transformation of other's property that was passed in 1928 and article 1 of the intensification of the punishments of those criminals of bribery, embezzlement and fraud, passed in 1988 in the Expediency Discernment Counsel, the criminal will be sentenced to one to seven years in prison, returning the property and also paying a fine equal to the value of the mentioned property.

Unauthorized constructions: Although the right reference for investigating the cases of unauthorized constructions is the article 100 commissions in municipalities, but based on the bylaw of misdeed cases of the justice department, in terms of the determination of the punishment for the misdeed of unauthorized construction (whose fine is a trifle amount of money), the justice department has the authority to investigate these cases. Also in many cases, and in opposition between of the construction police with unauthorized constructions, other crimes such as beating, insulting, threatening and destruction take place, all of which increase the number of the cases in the justice department and cause the compression of investigations in this department.

**Crimes and Felony after the Formation of Slumming**

**Theft:** Theft is among crimes against properties and criminologist have named some reasons for this felony such as poverty and economical urgency, unemployment, drug addiction, revenge, grudge and jealousy. Most of the mentioned reasons can be found in the slum areas. In most cases, people from these areas attempt theft in higher or middle neighborhoods of the city. Experiences have shown that most of the accused people in theft cases were residents of Tabriz's slums. Also slums are the best places for hiding stolen properties; because in these neighborhoods police control is limited and therefore, they turn into safe houses and shelters for criminals. Aside from the common cases of theft that were mentioned above, in slums the theft of electricity, water, and gas and telephone service are done regularly. These areas, especially in their first stages of formation lack these services. So they in a way try to steal water, electricity, gas and telephone services from the closest place possible (either residential, industrial, commercial or service centers) by hidden wiring and piping. These actions have a specific criminal title and according to article 660 of the law of Islamic punishment, it is stated that: "Everyone who attempts to use water, electricity, gas and telephone service without paying subscription charges and permission from the authorities, aside from paying the fine, is sentenced to up to two years in prison." and those who commit these crimes are punishable by the above mentioned law. These actions also sometime lead to cases of murder and injuries.

**Murder:** Contradictions between sub-cultures, old hostilities and disagreements, opportunism and money gathering, jealousy and honor, accidental quarrels and drug addiction are among the reasons for murder. These reasons are clearly visible in slum areas. Most of the murder cases either happen in these areas or are committed by people who have lived in these areas. In courts, there are several such cases of murder. For instance, someone in a slum area have argued with his neighbor over the penetration of moisture and dampness to his house (both of the houses are often unauthorized constructions) and a fight is followed where one of them murders his neighbor by a hunting gun. Or the case of the person who lives in a slum area of the city of Tabriz in the Espiran area where the urban waste is buried. He has a quarrel with the people from Anakhatoun village and using a hunting gun, murders one and injures eleven other people. In another case in a slum area of Tabriz, a person, due to old hostilities and disagreements, kidnaps a 5 year old child whom he rapes and then kills. Also there are cases of murder caused by tribal fights in these areas of Tabriz. There are many more for which there is not enough time to discuss and this study is not concerned with them.
Group disputes: Among common crimes in slum areas are group disputes because the residents in these areas are often immigrants from villages or tribes of nomads and usually they reside in one place close to each other. Sometimes even because of small quarrels between two kids, intense group disputes take place which very often leads to someone's murder or a number of injuries among the disputers. Usually, ten percent of the cases of murder are caused by these disputes. Added to that, a lack of accurate observation and control by the police and lack of quick access to the police station can be considered as effective factors in the regretful results of these disputes.

Threats against public health and the pollution of the environment: Article 688 of the Islamic punishment law have stated that: "Any kind of action which can be considered as threats against public health, such as polluting drinking water or distribution of polluted water, insanitary dumping of human or animal wastes, throwing poisonous material in the river or wastes in the streets, unauthorized slaughter of animals, unauthorized use of raw waste or wastes from waste purification centers for agricultural use is prohibited and those who do these actions, if not subject to more harsh punishments by special laws, are sentenced to up to one year in prison." In slum areas, wastes from houses are left in the streets and there are no proper canals for guiding these dirty waters and them flow in the streets. Urban services such as collecting the waste are not done as in the city. Some house keep tock at their houses and their excreta are scattered all over the house and the neighborhood. Unauthorized and insanitary slaughters of animal’s takes place in these neighborhoods and all of these cases are threats to public health and the environment and they are punishable by law. Also a health violation in public places of slum areas like shops and also sound and air pollution is seen in these areas. Recently, in one of the slums that was on the verge of formation as a new slum in Tabriz where its unauthorized constructions were demolished, a number of mules were slaughtered which indicates that opportunists were trying to sell them as meat.

Drug addiction and procurement of drugs and alcoholic beverages: The distribution of drugs in these areas is easily done and it is because of the sense of security that the distributors have in these areas. They are also not well-informed and have limited knowledge and there is also a great deal of unemployment seen in the residents of these Ares. Therefore, in order to be free of some of the mental pressures, the tendency to consume drugs in these areas is relatively more than other areas. Some of the unemployed youth or even young adults have chosen the distribution of drugs as their occupation or give the place or tools needed to those who want them and get profits from this way. A prominent instance of these places is the Khak Sefid neighborhood of Tehran. Also making alcoholic drinks is more seen in houses in slums and their distribution is done in that neighborhood or in the internal neighborhoods of the city. Most of these crimes happen because of the lack or shortage of disciplinary and security providing centers and in fact, these neighborhoods have turned into safe centers for people and groups who make their living through criminal ways. Social depression and lack of trust have cause the cooperative behaviors to not form in the inhabitants of the slum areas which in its turn prevents the possibility of using cooperative tools of social observation and control.

Crimes of forceful possession, disturbance and prevention of rights: The above mentioned crimes take place in these neighborhoods because of a lack of official ownership and side issues. A great percentage of presented cases in Tabriz courtrooms are related to these felonies and disputes.

Conclusion
What is now known as slumming is a part of an old historical trend of the immigration of a group of people that seek jobs and welfare and are running away from villages and small town because of their repulsive factors and also the driving away of the poor from inside the city to its
margins. This process is a natural result of development. As Dr. Hossein Zadedalir states, in crossing from living in villages to living in cities and on the path to development, we will face this phenomenon for sure and until slums are put in face of the cities, slumming will be a malformed and unacceptable phenomenon. But when we look at its history, it is considered as a constant, persistent, and inevitable and some even think necessary and profitable trend for development. So the belief that slums must be demolished is not defendable and we must act to organize them and provide the needed facilities for the slum dogs and decreasing the distance and gap between them and those who live in the city. And the execution of these actions which are the necessities and preconditions of decreasing the amount of crimes is not possible without the cooperation and help of all the responsible authorities. If such cooperation was to take place and the above mentioned solutions were used, we will sure not witness the formation and expansion of slumming in the country and consequently the spread of crimes and felonies and also cases of murder like that of the rape and murder of a 5 year old, the murder of a person by the neighbor only because of the penetration of moisture, the murder and injury of 12 people only because of a struggle over the collection of wastes and deaths caused by using and injection of drugs and suspicious suicides and also disasters like that of Varamin's Pakdasht which resulted in the death of 29 dead children which happened in the slums will not be seen.

Recommendations

In order to reduce and prevent crimes in slum areas, according to paragraph 6 of article 156 of the constitution, one of the responsibilities of the judiciary is the prevention of crimes. Also according to article 4 of the police force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was passed in 1970, the percussion of security and dealing with social issues is the responsibility of the police force; but it does not mean that other authorities have no duties or responsibilities regarding this matter. Prevention of crimes and procession of security is among the issues that are not possible without the intervention of all the governmental and public institutions. As fast and more strict and accurate as the judiciary and the police force face criminal phenomena, still the causing roots and reasons for criminal phenomena such as unemployment, poverty and social gaps will be there and diminishing these issues is not in the power or responsibilities of the judiciary. The justice department cannot be responsible for all the issues and problems that are caused by the weaknesses and shortcomings of related responsible authorities in relation with the ground making factors of the increase in the number of crimes. Why the necessary substructures and programs should not be provided by the responsible authorities and face the judiciary with a torrent of cases and several prisoners. If the responsible were to do their lawful jobs properly, we would not have seen the formation of areas called slums in a way that they exist now and turn into one of the urban problems and also stores and sources for all kinds of misdeeds and perversions and consequently the formation of judicial cases. The prevention of crimes needs a unified strategy from all the responsible authorities and all of them are responsible in this matter. We hereby present the necessary advises for the prevention of crimes in slums in two parts including advises in which slumming is not common yet or is on the verge of formation and advises for areas that are already home for the formation of slums for various reasons. The execution of these advises will not be possible without the cooperation of all the responsible authorities.

A) Suggestion of solutions for the prevention and decline in the crime rates of areas in which the construction of buildings is finished and slum dogs reside:

1. Raising the living quality through giving some tools and facilities and trying to accommodate the houses and neighborhoods with the basics and standards of city construction. Investing in these neighborhoods in the form of donations and without any anticipations for profits
and also disregarding the economical and profitability factors for the related authorities should be done by the municipalities.

2. Constructing passages and pathways in these neighborhoods that would facilitate the easy and quick access of the police and security forces and also emergency vehicles like those of the fire department, ambulances, etc.

3. Creating enough lighting in streets and passages because experiences have shown that in darker places the possibility for committing crimes like theft, beating and murder is more than well-lit places and enough light in these areas, in itself is a factor for the reduction of the above mentioned crimes.

4. Identification of gangsters and convicted criminals in these areas and creating a case for them and keeping them under control through accidental summoning’s to the police stations is another solution.

5. Increasing the security rate in the above mentioned areas by police and security forces through the establishment of police stations and the constant presence of patrols in these neighborhoods and passageways could help.

6. The closing of unauthorized trade centers and committing them to get permission and then, full and precise observation of the activities of the above mentioned centers and strict punishments for those who trespass the law by public places centers of the police force is a way to prevent crimes.

7. Beautification of the looks of the existent buildings in these areas because it has been proven that bad and ugly houses, affects the occurrence of crimes.

8. Creating healthy entertainment centers and facilities to fill the free times of the residents of slum areas will help to prevent crimes.

9. Sufficient inspections and observation by the experts in health and environment in slumming areas and the prevention of actions against public health and environment.

10. In passing the laws and important urban plans, programs and projects, the theories and opinions of sociologists, lawyers and especially criminologists must be utilized.

B) Suggesting solutions for the prevention and reduction of crimes in areas in which slumming has not become common yet but has potentials for slumming.

1. Related offices like municipalities, housing and city building organization, natural resources, the organization of agriculture, etc. should act exactly as the duties and responsibilities defined by the laws tell them. They should not be affected by internal or external factors and only abide the law and also if these lands belonged to one of these offices or organization, they should identify them and keep them safe from any harm or forceful occupation by taking necessary actions.

2. The activities of real estate’s agencies should be done under specific rules and regulations and their work must be closely observed. Most of these agencies, in fact, have turned into centers for land bribery and play effective roles in the occurrence of crimes that are related to land; crimes such as intervention in transportation of lands belonging to others, changing the functions of the lands, the occupation and destruction of government or public lands and also it is suggested that the law about dealers that was passed in 1938 which has not been reconsidered ever since then and is considered as a left out law and in its text, special conditions are seen for the commissions of real estate agencies and the collateral and guarantees is received from the commissioner in these real estate agencies before the beginning of the work and the above mentioned people are considered responsible in both legal and judicial terms in front of the both parties of the transaction and the third party and the activity of this guild is subject to the pretension of a dealership permission that is registered in the organizations. Special measures must be taken for the transactions in these real estate agencies to be limited.

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3. Active people in the land, housing and construction market should be identified and must have known cases and their actions must be controlled. If they had any hand in creating slum areas, sufficient punishment in coordination with their actions must be imposed on them.

4. Among other effective actions that can prevent the formation of slums and consequently prevent the occurrence of crimes is the subject of storing lands. The government must identify and possess the lands in which there is a possibility for expansion and gives them to those who are in need of houses through legal basics and regulations.

5. In the present laws, some of the prohibited actions are named by the judges but no guarantee is seen for their execution and criminals misuse these shortcomings and law's silence and do things that in some cases in which because of the lack of an execution guarantee or the legal element, they run away from punishment. Therefore, through new laws, these legal shortcomings must be corrected. Prominent examples of these cases are articles 4 and 6 of the law that prohibit the selling of lands that have no residential function which was passed in 2002. This law has distinguished prohibited actions but has not determined the punishments for those who commit them. Also for unauthorized construction, there is no judiciary guarantee and this problem must be solved. On the other hand, people who have hands in segregating lands into smaller lands and building in them or selling them for construction which leads to slumming must become punishable.

6. Activating the unit for performing the verdicts of article 100 commissions of the municipality law can prevent crimes. Although the verdicts for demolishing are unfortunately given by article 100 commissions, no serious measures are taken for the administration of these verdicts and they are left unexecuted in the verdict administration units of article 100 commissions.

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