A framework for architects’ role in attaining sustainable community development in heritage areas

Al-Darb AL-Ahmar, Islamic Cairo, Egypt as a case

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Abstract Heritage areas fall under many urban pressures, due to the disparity between its old physical structures and their inhabitants’ needs. However, heritage assets represent the main potential for such areas to achieve urban development. Architects play a pivotal role in materializing these potentials, through their role and practices, which serve as the cornerstone of the development process. This paper outlines a framework for architects’ intervention, in order to attain the prospects and improvements of a sustainable community development, and achieve the goals of revitalization in heritage areas.

To achieve its goals, this paper investigates three aspects of architect’s intervention in heritage areas: Physical, Economic and Social Revitalization. In addition to these aspects, the framework covers the practices and indicators followed by architects to achieve sustainable community development. Finally, the applicability of this framework is investigated using the outcomes of the heritage conservation and community development project initiated by “Friends of Historical and Public Gardens Society” (FHPGS) in (Al-Darb Al-Ahmar district, Historic Cairo).

1. Introduction

Heritage is an important source of tradition and inspiration. It contributes to the formation of national and local community identity [1]. There are great opportunities for community development, through identifying the cultural and natural heritage assets. As a common responsibility, this development shows the way for each partner to direct the needed change.
Architects can play a major role, through their practices as professionals and members of community as well. Actually, their contribution to historical areas goes beyond the limits of preserving the tangible legacy to include directing all aspects of community development, in a sustainable way. They usually have motivation and spirit of initiative to play this role. This is the case of an initiative project called “Friends of Historical and Public Gardens” (FHPGS) in Al-Darb AL-Ahmar in historical Islamic Cairo.

In 2003, three associations: the Lovers of Trees Association, the Egyptian Association for Community Service and Environment Protection, and Zamalek Association for Services Development established the association of “Friends of Historical and Public Gardens Society (FHPGS)”. The association’s main objective is to preserve historical sites and develop all of the existing gardens surviving since the 19th century. The organization has a variety of activities since 2003, one of these activities is the contribution to the attainment of a sustainable community development in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar district, which lies between the Citadel Square and Bab Zuwaila.

This paper examines the association’s initiative to develop the community in one of Al-Darb al-Ahmar’s districts. (Souq Al-Selah), through the restoration of the historical house “Bayt Yaken Basha”.

In light of this vision of development, this research aims to draw a framework for architects’ intervention to attain sustainable community development. In addition, it attempts to use this framework to evaluate the influence of architects’ practices on attaining development, on the bases of meeting certain objectives. The aforementioned objectives are stated as follows: Firstly, defining the aspects of sustainable community development that architects can utilize in heritage areas.

The second objective is to conclude the indicators of sustainable community development. The third objective is about determining the practices to be followed by architects to achieve the required development. Through these three objectives, a three dimensional framework is outlined.

The current research follows a methodology, encompassing a number of inquiry approaches, as follows:

- The research adopts the inductive approach, through reviewing the literature on sustainable community development, in addition to the intervention and practices of architects in heritage areas.
- The pragmatic approach, associated with quantitative and qualitative methods simultaneously, along with the use of a variety of data sources to study the paper case problem. The paper examines the findings of a questionnaire, informative face-to-face interviews, and field observations.
- Finally, the conclusion outlines the impact of architect’s practices on heritage as a tool to attain the goals of sustainable community improvement and development.

2. Sustainable community development in heritage areas

The concept of community development includes correlated terms such as: community organization, community building, community capacity building, and community engagement [2]. In addition, it includes other overlapped conceptions such as: social capital, strengths-based approach, asset-based approach, and social planning [3]. According to Matarrrita and Brennan (2012), it is a process that entails facilitation, organization, and action, which allows people to direct ways to shape the community they prefer to live in. It is a process, that provides direction, planning, vision, and coordinates the actions, leading to address the desired goals (outcomes), associated with the advancement of efforts, that aim to improve the conditions, in which local resources operate [4].

All communities support development, however, the ability to accept this development depends on the characteristics of each community. The host communities of heritage are highly qualified for development due to the distinguished nature of their assets. According to Al-Hagla, these assets are vital in any developmental process in historical areas, and marketing them is considered a significant mean to attain sustainable community development [5]. This is assured also by Throsby, who highlighted heritage assets as capital assets, that is fundamental for community development, and they are seen as prerequisites for development [6].

There are many aspects to developers and architects’ contribution to the adaptive use of assets, in order to establish sustainable community development. Architectural intervention has similar ideas to these of sustainability, in terms of: the environmental, social and economic aspects. To formulate these aspects to adapt to heritage trail, Keiner and UNIDO addressed the interaction between heritage, and sustainable community development to conclude the aspects that developers should follow to address the required development [7,8].

Sustainable community development discusses the environmental aspect as a requirement for the human development, through the optimal use of the environmental and natural resources. It deals with the fundamental needs for human survival, so it is regarded as the most tractable dimension. In addition, it focuses on addressing the pressing problems related to maintaining the fabric of built environment [9].

The economic aspect is regarded as the most significant prerequisite for the real fulfillment of human needs and raising living standards of a community. It refers to economic growth in general, through the role of built environment [10].

The social aspect calls for the improvement of the quality of life of a given community through: satisfying its needs, increasing social equality, and raising the levels of well-being [11].

Depending on these visions of the three general aspects of sustainable community development, Al-Hagla and El-Sorady concluded three parallel aspect namely: Physical Conservation and Rehabilitation, Local-Economic Development, and Social Revitalization [5,12]. Thus creating a ‘vicious circle of development’ in areas of historical assets [13] as shown in Fig. 1.

2.1. Indicators of sustainable community development

Investigating the indicators of sustainable community development is the focus of many literature [14,15,12]. Four indicators are concluded from these studies which are: Participation, Social Capital, Quality of Life, and Security. To insure the compatibility of these indicators with the needs of community, they were compared to Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs. As a consequence, this paper suggested adding a fifth indicator,
arranged from bottom to top as follows: Quality of Life, Security, Participation, Social Capital, and Social Welfare, as shown in Fig. 2.

Quality of life stands as the base of these indicators. At this point, enhancement of cultural heritage can significantly contribute to the improvement of citizens’ conditions. This belief is particularly based on the projects of historic neighborhoods and cities undergoing rehabilitation, often accompanied by improvement in historical built environment [1].

The second indicator, security, which can be enhanced through rehabilitation and development of historical sites, whereas deterioration of these sites leads to widespread insecurity, crime, and deterioration of facilities, because of shortage of maintenance.

While the participation indicator stands as a pivotal requirement for development, which would be unachievable without the active participation of the local community. Thus, it has become increasingly important to drive local communities to participate positively in decision making [16].

Social capital is the fourth indicator, which points to a significant potential of heritage, in terms of: creating places for community hubs, encounters, and sites of social inclusion and integration. Such places shall function as a source of local pride and identity. It is also concerned with activities of volunteers, NGOs, and common activities [17].

Finally, the fifth indicator, Social Welfare, which focuses on the enhancement of living standards of populations, Empowerment of community members, respecting human dignity, and supporting democratic decisions [9].

3. Sustainable community development in heritage areas: architects’ practices

Architects have undeniable role and responsibility towards community issues, including culture heritage. Beyond their responsibility and professional contractual obligations, they are capable of developing the community through their practices that enhance heritage assets, according to the available aspects of contribution.

The first aspect of their intervention is: Physical Conservation and Rehabilitation, which is the most significant need for host communities. Many global organization and architectural codes set rules about the significant role played by architects in the item’s creation, conservation, adaptation, and ongoing management and maintenance [10]. Physical conservation represents the process of improving the condition of the historic built environment and the related environment within it [18]. Furthermore, it sustains the meanings and values of community practices, and environment, including but not limited to: the historical, cultural, artistic, traditional, economic, experiential, environmental functional and social aspects [19]. Actually, this aspect also raises the awareness of local community about heritage and the importance of conservation.

The second aspect of intervention is: Local-Economic Development, that has significant impact on local residents, through satisfying their needs, and raising the standard of living [19]. Doratli developed three strategic approaches for economic revitalization, that architect can follow: Functional Restructuring, Diversification, and Regeneration [20]. These approaches seek to invest in historical sites to provide job opportunities, equitable income, and positive impact.

According to Archer and Fletcher, this impact was classified to three categories: Direct, Indirect and Induced. Direct impact results from the financial outcome of the direct involve-
ment of the local residents in the process of revitalization, such as: salaries and profits. The indirect impact arises from the individuals or groups that shall provide and promote their services in a historical area or in the surrounding areas, including: beverages, and other consumables. Induced effects can occur due to raising income levels, as these incomes shall be used to develop services [5].

The final aspect is Social Revitalization. Architects through their social intervention can enhance the social structure of community, and create active and dynamic chance of interaction. Architect should seek to create opportunities for community members to participate and get involved in enhancing wellbeing. They can use the place to reveal the meanings and convey the sense of place to strengthen the relation between the setting, and local community [21]. Furthermore, social revitalization depends on interrelated concepts such as: social cohesion, community rehabilitation, and community empowerment. It aims to enhance the current condition of the whole community and individuals, taking into account the qualities of the upcoming generation [2]. Finally, it is concerned with how the community lives and uses spaces, and how it deals with the surrounding heritage to lead a strong cultural and social life.

Table 1 states the concluded guidelines to be followed by architects to develop heritage areas to attain sustainable community development.

### 3.1. Architects’ practices

In order to successfully achieve the proper development, the practices to be followed by the architects must be realized.

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**Fig. 4** Bayt Yaken before and after restoration. Source: [32].

**Fig. 5** A number of the association’s activities in Bayt Yaken. Source: [32].
According to many literature [22,12,23] these practices could be summarized as:

### 3.1.1. Heritage conservation
It is about considering the heritage as a resource of development. It contributes to the proper conservation and understanding of the historical built environment. Architects can engage in preserving heritage, taking into consideration the constant composition of meanings, identities, and traditions [1]. In addition, the process of conservation in addition, the process of conservation makes it possible to place the heritage in a convenient setting, that has a sense of citizenship and promotes the quality of life, that aims at the commemoration of memory and respect of cultural diversity [24]. Furthermore, it seeks to foster the sustainable use of cultural heritage resources for the benefit of the local population and economic growth.

### 3.1.2. Public engagement
It plays a key role in preserving cultural identity and promoting the quality of life, social inclusion, conservation, and sustainability. Hence, effective development should be realized through participatory approach. Consequently, communities need to be aware of the issues of heritage conservation and development [2]. Architects should play proactive role to raise the awareness of the public about the importance of heritage conservation, and to convince them of their significant role in decision-making to promote the required development.

### 3.1.3. Enhancement of livability
Architects, through development process, should seek to create flexible built environment and approach the historical sites, bearing in mind the ability to adapt to the changing needs and expectations of community and individual. Livability deals with the economy, environment, culture and other life circumstances [25]. Employing flexibility and livability in creating opportunities for a diversity of activities and uses will enable communities to meet future challenges successfully.

### 3.1.4. Creating opportunities for economic growth
This action highlights the importance of improving the economic conditions of community members. Architects can provide proper built environment, which attracts investment and local economy. In addition, they can provide key infrastructure that facilitates community and business connectivity [26].

### 3.1.5. Community empowerment
Empowerment is defined as a process, by which the public have full control over their lives and their community and are able to critically understand their surroundings. Through development, architect should give community members a chance to exhibit the spirit of leadership to direct their community [2].

### 3.1.6. Enhancement of local culture and awareness
Local culture represents local pride and sense of community. So, these social values enhance the people’s sense of pride stemming from their local heritage, and their appreciation thereof [1]. As a result, community members shall take action to look after their heritage, and show a better way of coping with development. Architects can highlight the assets and values that influence culture and raise the awareness of the community members, through their practices.

### 3.1.7. Strengthening social structure
Social structure can be supported through participatory approach, which is far effective for the regeneration of community. In the field of cultural heritage, architects can create opportunities for people to volunteer and play an active role in the projects of heritage management and development [27].

### 3.1.8. Social change
It has been significantly associated with the development process. Its core is sharing of knowledge, aiming at reaching consensus, regarding the action plan, that takes into consideration the needs, interests, capacities of all of the concerned parties [28]. In development, architects should be role models, with

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect of development</th>
<th>Guidelines for architects</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Conservation and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>- Preserve the historical sites and buildings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The quality of architectural product.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Preserve and protect the community’s parks and open space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Preserve and enhance a place’s local identity and character.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Implement sustainable practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local-Economic Development</td>
<td>- Develop and generate more economic opportunities for the local members of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Ensure affordable quality for all community members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Attract businesses, new residents, and visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Provide or facilitate public services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Revitalization</td>
<td>- Engage the public in transparent planning processes to assess the current and future needs of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Promote community pride and stewardship of place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Preserve the historic and cultural heritage of a place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Show appreciation and a better understanding of a community's cultural diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Facilitate connections among, or reduce barriers between diverse groups (e.g., Age cohorts, ethnic groups, socioeconomic classes).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
whom community members would work, for the sake of their community.

Such architectural practices, along with the aspects of intervention of the architects, and the five indicators of sustainable community development establish the designed evaluation framework. Architects can rely on this framework to direct sustainable community development in heritage areas, and evaluate their impact on community (see Table 2).

4. Al-Darb Al-Ahmar district

Al-Darb Al-Ahmar is one of the historical districts in Islamic Cairo, which is distinguished by the architectural features of historical eras such as: Mamluk Era, and the Turkish Era. Its inhabitants (about 100,000 person) are among the poorest populations across Egypt. While featuring rich concentration of Islamic monuments, it suffers from the lack of adequate infrastructure and services. As a consequence, high percentage of residents suffer from health-related issues [29]. Yet, all of these conditions cannot refute the fact that Al-Darb Al-Ahmar remains an extremely vibrant commercial productive area of Cairo.

The district benefits from a socially cohesive population of long-term residents, many of whom are involved in numerous industries and workshops, focusing predominantly on: furniture production, shoe making and inlay-work. With appropriate guidance, many of such industries, especially carpentry have proven to be capable of producing high quality products, when the shortcomings of cheap mass production have become evident [30].

Despite years of decline, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar’s built environment has numerous compensating qualities: as its closely-knit urban fabric has helped maintain a strong sense of community identity, and its historical buildings, with their courtyards, light wells and large windows have the prospects of creating unique architectural character for the district [31]. Despite all its potentials, Al-Darb Al-Ahmar’s current state may make regeneration appear overly optimistic.

5. The intervention of (FHPGS) association in the sustainable community development of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar district

The historical house Bayt Yaken Basha lies in Cairo, nearby Hamam Bashtak, in Souq Al-Selah (Arms Market) Street, which is narrow, only 220 m long, and lies in the heart of Islamic Cairo. The street was named after numerous workshops that sold all kinds of weaponry. Architect Salah Zaki and Alaa Al-Habashy bought Yaken House to be transformed from butcher shop into a historical destination, and the official office of (FHPGS) association (see Fig. 3).

On 20 August 2017, Yaken House was opened after restoration as a focal cultural, social and developmental destination, also as a model for those interested in saving the historical memory and identity of Islamic Cairo. Rehabilitation of Bayt Yaken depends on the flexibility, which allows for many activities, such as: the establishment of architectural workshops and inhabitations, (see. Figs. 4-5). Alaa El-Habashy, the official representative of (FHPGS) association determined the aims and practices of the architects and participants in the association as shown in Table 3.

In order to evaluate the practices of the association’s architects, the suggested framework is applied in Table 4.

6. Survey results

As an integral part of the analytical studies, a field study—including survey interviews and questionnaires with the community members, BaytYaken visitors, and FHPGS members—was conducted. The interviews were conducted with 70 interviewees, who were asked questions regarding the five concluded indicators: Quality of Life (i.e., the importance of Bayt Yaken restoration, its role in enhancing tourism in the district), Security (i.e., What is their perception about their community, has livability been enhanced), Participation (i.e., Did they participate in the decision-making process and activities, how did they take part in decision-making), Social Capital (i.e., Did they give time as a volunteer in Bayt Yaken, How

### Table 2: Evaluation framework for the architects’ impact on sustainable community development in heritage areas. Source: Author, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of sustainable community development</th>
<th>Quality of life</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Social Capital</th>
<th>Social Welfare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Conservation and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>✓ Heritage conservation</td>
<td>✓ Creating opportunities for economic growth</td>
<td>✓ Enhancement of livability</td>
<td>✓ Public engagement</td>
<td>✓ Enhancing culture and awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local-Economic Development</td>
<td>✓ Heritage conservation</td>
<td>✓ Enhancing livability</td>
<td>✓ Public engagement</td>
<td>✓ Empowerment</td>
<td>✓ Social Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Revitalization</td>
<td>✓ Raising awareness</td>
<td>✓ Enhancing culture and awareness</td>
<td>✓ Empowerment</td>
<td>✓ Social Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ Direct impact.
○ Indirect impact.
many new friends have they made because of their involvement in activities in Bayt Yaken) and Social Capital (i.e., Did they feel that they have the motivation and responsibility to develop the goals of the association. Have they felt a change, at the personal and social level since the restoration of Bayt Yaken).

While the questionnaire was conducted on a sample of 78 residents representing the local community of Souk Elselah Street. The sample included all available categories of community members, with a variety of criteria. The participants in the questionnaire were asked to answer three groups of questions regarding different types of information. The first group aimed at gathering general information about residents, including: gender and age, in addition to questions about their relation to the district, and their knowledge about the heritage of the district.

The second group of the questionnaire consisted of five sections investigating the five indicators of sustainable community development: Quality of Life, Security, Participation, Social Capital, and Social Welfare. Every section measured one indicator using four questions following a Likert scale, consisting of five levels used to score the residents answers. The results of the survey show that the average rating of the five indicators was high 3.82, 3.2, 3.83, 3.75 and 3.35 (out of 5), respectively.

The last group of questions pertained to the community vision about activities. Respondents were asked to answer four (4) questions:

1. From your point of view, what is the most significant activity, sponsored by the association, and affecting the district?
2. Why do you regard this activity the most significant one?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects of intervention</th>
<th>Association’s aim</th>
<th>Practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Conservation and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Reviving the culture heritage</td>
<td>– Rescue of BaytYakn from destruction and misuse to be a role model for those who are interested in heritage preservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being an intermediary between community and governmental authorities, with respect to heritage preservation and local projects</td>
<td>– Addressing the responsible authorities to solve the problems of deterioration of heritage in Historic Cairo. In addition to serious attempts to restore historical sites, For example: the entrance of the historical site of Hamam Bashtak and the works of cleaning the stone of the historical Gate of Manjak al Yousoufi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Architects involved in community understand desires and suggest architectural projects that serve the community sector, then deal with governorate authorities in order to execute these projects. For example, designing the urban space in front of Hmam Bashtak. The association released architectural competition to design this urban space for the sake of community development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Architects depend on the flexibility of the restoration of Bayt Yaken, where they can use the house as an exhibition to develop famous traditional crafts and art works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Economic Development</td>
<td>Supporting community to enhance the local economy</td>
<td>Bayt yaken as a historical place gained attention from community members, so it represents a destination and a proper space of interaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Revitalization</td>
<td>Enhancement of social structure</td>
<td>The vision of the association work is to encourage residents to take part in decision making. Residents were invited to participate in the restoration of Bayt Yaken, and attend activities and architectural workshops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Empowerment of local community to be responsible toward heritage and its development.</td>
<td>An example of community empowerment was the participation of the members of the local community as jury for the competition, set for the development of the urban space in front of Hamam Bashtak. Architects described the projects for residents, then residents voted for the project that serve their best interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raising the awareness of community members</td>
<td>Architects give lectures to raise awareness about heritage, For example: lectures on the topic of “Building National Capacities for Managing the Risks Threatening Cultural Heritage in Case of Emergency” to encourage community members to be active participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 The aims and practices of (FHPGS) association, according to the three aspects of sustainable community development. Source: Author deepening on interviews, 2018.
3. How does this activity impact you? Direct or indirect impact?
4. Do you feel that the activity has short or long-term impact?

Answers about the most significant activity could be summarized in the following three activities: Preservation of Heritage, Social Activities, and Improvement of the Built Environment. Preservation of heritage was the highlight of the majority of answers, about 76%. At the end of the questionnaire, they were asked to write any notes if they want. The majority of the written notes supported the idea that architects should focus on their goals to preserve heritage, and increase architectural workshops and events.

7. Discussion

The responses asserted that the community witnessed development and improvement, because of the appropriate use of such practices (see Table 3). Table 3 indicates the applicability of the suggested framework on a questionnaire discussing the sustainable development of Al-Darb Al-Ahmar community. Architects of FHPGS association were successful in addressing the aspects of sustainable development. The physical conservation and rehabilitation was addressed by the restoration of Bayt Yaken. 78% of the respondents expressed their overall satisfaction with the new function of Bayt Yaken, and revealed its significant role in promoting integral development. In addition, results of the last part of the questionnaire proved that the physical intervention was the most influential among other activities.

As for the economic development, physical intervention and raising the abilities of community members had a positive impact on economic development, which remains a key consideration in heritage areas. 71% of respondents gave positive feedback concerning the flexibility of transforming Bayt Yaken to be an exhibition that developed their economic condition.

Concerning social revitalization, it drew significant attention due to the focus of the association members on enhancing the social structure and interaction of community members. As more than three quarters of respondents showed their satisfaction with two indicators: participation and social capital. Furthermore, the main aim of the association is to empower community members to act for the sake of developing their community using heritage assets. The responses of the residents on their ability to direct change and demonstrate leadership revealed the success of the association members to empower community.

As for the indicators of Sustainable Community Development, Fig. 6 shows that the indicators of participation, social capital, and quality of life (highlighted in blue) ranked higher.
Fig. 6  The ratings of the local residents regarding the indicators of sustainable community development. Source: Author.

Fig. 7 Rating of local residents about sustainable development according to gender. Source: Author.

Table 5 Selected community improvement indicators and measures in Aldarb Al-ahmar, (related to the questionnaire and interview questions and results. Source: Author.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practices</th>
<th>Samples of measures</th>
<th>Questionnaire responses%</th>
<th>Evidence from interviewees comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life</td>
<td>■ Heritage conservation</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Creating opportunities for economic growth</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Raising awareness</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>■ Heritage conservation</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Enhancement of livability</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Public engagement</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Heritage conservation</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>■ Participation in the restoration of Bayt Yaken and its associated activities</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Participation in decision making and different activities</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Capital</td>
<td>■ Enhancement of culture and awareness</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Strengthening social structure</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Welfare</td>
<td>■ Empowerment</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Social Change</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Creating opportunities for economic growth</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>69</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>
Bayt Yaken activities, if compared to the number of men (see Fig. 7).

Another difference, respondents under 40 years old also ranked the indicators higher than others aged over 40 years (3.98 vs. 3.76, respectively). The reason behind this, is that most of the participants in the activities of the association were under 40. Consequently, architects of the association have a drawback of not engaging all community segments. While about 92% of respondents are original residents expressing the social cohesion of their community, more than two-thirds of the answers in the criteria concerning the extent of knowledge about the heritage of the district show that they have an average knowledge about it.

In addition, two-thirds of the respondents who answered that they have average not full knowledge about the heritage of the district ranked the quality of life indicator higher than others (4.15 vs. 3.89, respectively). One of the questions about this indicator was “Did the restoration of Bayt Yaken increased the number of tourists in the area”. This result indicates that the restoration of Bayt Yaken helped residents to recognize the importance of their cultural heritage and how it could be used as a tool to attain development. It also shows the negligence and lack of awareness about the importance of the district heritage. In general, the research results showed that architects of FHPGS played a fundamental role by applying their practices to achieve overall sustainable community development, through their architectural intervention in Bayt Yaken (see Table 5).

8. Conclusion

Architects practices are a pivotal tool to serve the interest of the community. Therefore, sustainable community development in heritage areas is one of the domains, where such practices can be influentially applicable. To validate this impact, evaluation framework was proposed and applied on architects’ intervention in Bayt Yaken, in the historical area of Al-Darb Al-Ahmarr district. Results revealed that architect’s intervention can achieve sustainable community development in historical areas, through the appropriate application of the suggested framework. In addition, it is concluded that the physical intervention in heritage assets is the core of the development.

There are priorities to apply the required development, the communities hosting heritage react more positively toward physical improvement, if compared to the other aspects of intervention. As a consequence, the first practice that architects should follow is: Physical Conservation of Heritage accompanied by Public Engagement. Furthermore, participation is the base indicator to be applied even before any of the steps of the development process is taken, through: raising conscious toward heritage importance and active engagement. Depending on participatory approach, architects can easily motivate community members and meet their needs, through the development process.

Afterwards, architects should seek to apply the other indicators of sustainable community development, in parallel with their practices and aspects of intervention, according to the suggested framework. A significant criterion of architects’ success in creating sustainable community development is their ability to lead the community toward empowerment and directing their own development.

Over all, the suggested framework is applicable and serves as a guide and evaluation tool for assessing architects’ intervention, evaluating the success of the development, and its drawbacks. This paper recommends that the suggested framework shall be followed by architects to address their role in attaining sustainable community development in heritage areas.

References

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