

Urban Sociology

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Urban places have always carried a distinct flavor of their own with unique infrastructures, landscapes, social institutions, lifestyles, and population demographics for ages. The special, cultural, and anthropological demographics of Urban places are always distinct, influencing the attitudes, behaviors, and viewpoints of individuals residing in the area. The urban spaces that are flexible and open encompass individuals with a more liberal approach to life. In contrast, strict confinements and restrictions result in more extremist and radical minds intolerant and unaccepting of outsiders in their spaces. Communication and interaction in Urban spaces are more prompt, but with the world moving towards virtualization, vast urban spaces have led to alienation, isolation, and loneliness on the part of its residents. People live in more compact and enclosed spaces, yet the emotional and physical distances between them have extended to no ends. Visiting the Brooklyn street of New York last year, I witnessed and interpreted how specific urban space influences the behaviors and activities of the individuals residing in the area based upon the external and metaphysical stimulus of the place.

Surrounded by antique infrastructures, paved crosswalks, and a glimpse of the Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn street is one of the most occupied and happening places of New York City. There is a sharp contrast between the daily life and nightlife of the street, with the days filled with anxious faces, office employees, shop owners making their way to their respective duties compared to the nights where the street witness carefree faces, anxious sights, and happy laughter lighting up the place. In his works, *Local and Global: The management of cities in the information age* Jordi Borja defines Urban spaces as "The public space defines the quality of the city because it indicates the quality of life of the people and the quality of the citizenship of its inhabitants" meaning the more occupied and engaging the urban spaces are, in terms of their infrastructure, social life and

cultural values, the more integrated and elevated lifestyle these places offer to their inhabitants (Borja, 1998). According to Borja's definition, interpreting the lifestyle of Brooklyn street is filled with parks, clubs, apartments, offices, business outlets, shopping centers, restaurants, and aesthetic sceneries that allow an ever-engaging lifestyle with bustling streets and vibrant lifestyles.

From the people sitting ideally on the pavements to the workers hurrying towards their duty to the happy families spending quality time with their children in the parks, all these mundane activities and daily routine stand reflect the distinctive taste and the influence of the city's infrastructure. While taking a casual stroll on the street, I noticed that Brooklyn Street is occupied by rows of houses and bars enveloping the street from all ends. The vendor shops located at the corner are usually the intersecting points where people meet and catch up with each other's lives. Studying the small urban lives of New York City, Whyte and his colleagues also noticed that "if there's a vendor at the corner, people will cluster around him" (Popova, 2013). The houses' infrastructure is somewhat inclusionary where their walls are connected, adding a sense of intimacy to the residents of the houses. Another integrating factor that I witness on Brooklyn street New York that promotes the city's social life is the live music culture. Whyte, in his study, also analyzed that, "Musicians and entertainers draw people together [but] it is not the excellence of the act that is important" (Popova, 2013). New York is famous for its live street performances and concerts. Brooklyn bridge itself is the center for live performances and featuring music artists. People are mostly huddled together, enjoying the indie and live performances, finding the opportunity to get a short break from their fast-paced life, and finding a chance to have human interaction and build new connections.

To conclude, urban spaces like the city of New York constitute a fast-paced life where people seldom find the chance to interact or communicate with each other physically. However,

the compact infrastructure allows the residents to find small chances to interact with each other. The corner vendor shops, picnic spots, well-maintained public parts, and live social scenario of the city also allow the residents to bridge the communication and social gaps that the technological world has created among human societies.

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References

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