

Intersectionality and Urban Environment: Understanding Mothers' Perceptions of Public Spaces within Amman Downtown, Jordan

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Abstract: Young mothers in Amman Downtown (AD) often report feeling unsafe and excluded from public spaces. This study investigates how limited access to childcare facilities, inadequate amenities, and concerns over safety and accessibility shape mothers' perceptions (MP), restricting their mobility and participation in urban life. Through the lens of intersectionality, we examine how various identities intersect to shape the experience and perspective of motherhood in urban settings, contributing to a deeper understanding of the challenges marginalized groups encounter in public spaces. Employing urban ethnographic methods, including semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions (FGD), and field observations, we delved into the perceptions of young mothers in public spaces in AD. Our findings showed that key factors such as safety, accessibility, and amenities play a significant role in shaping MP. Furthermore, additional variables such as gender norms, socioeconomic status, mobility patterns, and social support influence the lived experiences of mothers. The research underscores the need for interventions tailored to the diverse needs of young mothers, emphasizing the importance of creating a care-supportive environment in public spaces. By integrating intersectionality and considering mothers' multifaceted identities, urban planners and policymakers can move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach and foster a more sustainable, inclusive and supportive public realm.

Keywords: motherhood; public spaces; care-supportive design; Intersectionality; Inclusive public space; right to the city; urban dynamics; urban spaces