



International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science

e-ISSN: 2544-9435

Scholarly Publisher
RS Global Sp. z O.O.
ISNI: 0000 0004 8495 2390

Dolna 17, Warsaw,
Poland 00-773
+48 226 0 227 03
editorial_office@rsglobal.pl

ARTICLE TITLE THE CENTRALITY OF THE LIVING FRAMEWORK AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE: THE CASE OF THE OLD CITY OF CONSTANTINE

ARTICLE INFO Senani Karima, Bousmaha Ahmed. (2025) The Centrality of The Living Framework and Its Implications for The Quality of Urban Life: The Case of The Old City of Constantine. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3124

DOI [https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1\(45\).2025.3124](https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3124)

RECEIVED 17 December 2024

ACCEPTED 19 January 2025

PUBLISHED 03 February 2025

LICENSE



The article is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License**.

© The author(s) 2025.

This article is published as open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

THE CENTRALITY OF THE LIVING FRAMEWORK AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE: THE CASE OF THE OLD CITY OF CONSTANTINE

Senani Karima (Corresponding Author, Email: karima.senani@univ-oeb.dz)

Assistant master, Institute of Management of the Urban Techniques, University of Oum El Bouaghi, Oum El Bouaghi (Algeria)

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-5484-5314

Bousmaha Ahmed

Professor, Geography and Urban Planning Department, Faculty of Earth Sciences and Architecture, team leader laboratory Assessing Quality of Use in Architecture and the Built Environment, University of Oum El Bouaghi (Algeria)

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-6604-0732

ABSTRACT

Living in cities imposes a rapid lifestyle subject to the laws and requirements of living in them, as the latter provide the needs of their inhabitants in varying proportions, and city centres are considered the most important living areas. Through this article, we will try to know the relationship between the quality of urban life and the centralized living areas through a field investigation where 50 questionnaires were distributed to the inhabitants of Souika with the help of two elementary schools. After transcribing and analysing the results, it was found that despite the weight of the historical past in every detail of its corners and the services it provides through it or through its surroundings, and despite the deteriorating state of its built framework, which has negatively affected the inhabitants in many aspects of their daily lives, it is still for them the preferred living framework that fulfils their needs and makes them comfortable and satisfied them and shows their attachment to it and their sense of belonging. This is what makes the overall centrality of the old city, including the historical one, not opposed to achieving the quality of urban life in this particular living framework.

KEYWORDS

Quality of Urban Life, Centrality, Living Framework, Old City, Constantine City

CITATION

Senani Karima, Bousmaha Ahmed. (2025) The Centrality of The Living Framework and Its Implications for The Quality of Urban Life: The Case of The Old City of Constantine. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 1(45). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.1(45).2025.3124

COPYRIGHT

© The author(s) 2025. This article is published as open access under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

1. Introduction

The city experiences different phenomena and is always faced with the inevitability of providing various services to its inhabitants, as the demand for the latter is increasing to meet the diverse and growing needs of the population and this is what guarantees them to live their humanity, but due to the increasing and at the same time rapid developments of lifestyle and changing needs as a result of social and cultural changes and modernity that touched all aspects of life and the technological development that accompanied this, it is difficult to meet the various needs of the population with different individual desires as well as collective ones. This acceleration has made the human being sometimes become a number in statistics and this may be reflected in the fulfilment of his requirements, which become more quantitative than qualitative.

On the other hand, the individual's living framework controls his behaviours and interaction with the field, and at the same time these behaviours reflect on him either positively or negatively, forming a closed loop between behaviour and its implications on the satisfaction of needs, which directly affects the living framework.

The behaviour of individuals towards their living space in all its dimensions gives a coherent and logical picture of their relationship with their space in terms of social uses, and one of the most important areas of the city that is considered to be special is the centre as an area that gathers all the strengths of the city, which makes it characterised by urban centrality, which qualifies it to be an attractive area for movement and a major driver of dynamism in the city.

The nature of centrality is related to the quality of the attractions and strengths. For a city centre, it combines many and varied types of strengths with different phenomena, both daily and seasonal, which increases its specificity, especially for a centre that carries the city's history, because heritage makes the centre stronger. As a living framework for its inhabitants, this creates the issue of preserving heritage and providing a favourable living framework for the inhabitants.

This paradox dictates different and sensitive interventions for the preservation of history, preventing the fulfilment of the needs of the population on the one hand and the need to ensure the conditional protection of this (historical) heritage on the other.

This dilemma leads to the question: how can the quality of life of city centre residents be ensured in light of the need to protect heritage?

2. Quality of life. A vague concept

The concept of quality of life is difficult to define clearly and explicitly, so various studies evaluate the quality of life in the city through several indicators instead of defining it.

Because human beings, like all living beings, need a medium characterised by certain characteristics that make it suitable for their survival and continuity (Charles Girard, Tangi Le Dantec, 2016), they need a vital medium for their living, which means that it is a medium that must combine the necessary conditions for human life by considering all the aspects to which they aspire.

European Organisation's definition: The organisation believes that quality is the set of characteristics and features of a product or service related to its ability to fulfil a specific need (Fouad ben ghodbane, 2015)

In other words, quality is not a single attribute, but a set of attributes that must be present together in a certain format, which ensures the fulfilment of various needs.

In order to define quality of life, we can take inspiration from Allardt's 1981-1976 analysis, which distinguishes between objective and subjective conditions of life, which constitute four different dimensions: Level of life (material needs), quality of life (non-material conditions of life), satisfaction (subjective perception of the level of life conditions) and happiness (subjective perception of quality of life) (Max Craglia et autres, 1999).

3. Quality of life: between objectivity and subjectivity

According to Natalia Barbarino-Saulnier, approaches and assessments of quality of life have centred on analysing the satisfaction and contentment of individuals, and other approaches have dealt with the study of life conditions, and the issue in her thesis is not about objective approaches (availability of life conditions) and subjective approaches (Satisfaction and contentment) only, but rather combining the two types of approaches and ensuring integration between them (Natalia Barbarino-Saulnier, 2005).

This means that the assessment of quality of life is based on the availability of the conditions of life while achieving satisfaction and contentment with it, and this is based on both quantitative and qualitative analysis, where the first is through defining the necessary conditions for quality of life, evaluating their conditions and studying their spatial distributions, while the second is based on analysing value systems, studying subjective preferences and studying levels of satisfaction and contentment (Natalia Barbarino-Saulnier, 2005).

Thus, even if the concepts of quality of life differ due to different criteria for categorisation, they all fall into the category of something good and appropriate that meets the conditions of life and gives satisfaction and contentment.

4. Satisfaction and contentment

The study of the level of satisfaction and contentment of individuals is through qualitative analyses of their perspectives and perceptions of quality of life, which translates the subjective approach to it. If the outlook is subjective, it is affected by many aspects of their daily lives that they may lose as a result of development and changes, as Olivier Mongin addressed in his book "*Les gens de peu by saying*" "those who we do not talk about and do not talk about themselves, those who live at a daily pace and do not leave the slightest traces" (Pierre Sansot, 2017), as individuals They live on the margins of life in their current domain because they are still linked to their old domain in terms of lifestyle and way of life, which shows a sense of not belonging and marginalisation due to the change in the parameters of life in this domain due to social and cultural changes and the evolution of time that imposes a different lifestyle.

5. The city of Constantine. The apparent city

The city of Constantine is the apparent city, the impervious city, the result of different civilisations, one of the largest agglomerations in the country and a true metropolis of the Algerian East (BouadamRoukia-Ghiat, 2009), Constantine has historically been the most stable capital in the Middle Maghreb and has witnessed important urban transformations, placing it in a dynamic and dynamic Nawas where it oscillates between maximum and minimum values.

In order to maintain stability and ensure the quality of life of the population, it has received many strategies to manage it as a metropolis, including strategic planning, one of the most important aspects of which is the urban homogeneity plan, which faces many challenges, most notably the challenge of improving the quality of life by:

- Ensuring a balanced distribution of public services.
- Promoting health services and access to treatment.
- Improving and multiplying public services in the city.

Diversifying and improving the organisation of commercial processing.

- Providing security.

- Adaptation and restructuring of green and public spaces.

- Facilitating the Decentralization of sports and access to culture(Schéma de Cohérence Urbaine de Constantine, rendu mission 3, juin 2007)

The previous elements revolve around the requirements and needs of the population, the latter being the other side of the coin that carries the quality of life.

6. Constantine's city centre is a theatre of contradictions

Constantine's city centre faces different challenges as it is a unique living environment, being the centre of a metropolitan city and a carrier of material and moral heritage (for more than 2500 years), which makes it a historical and urban specificity.

The various transformations that have characterised the city's urban development, influenced by geography, history and society, have affected life in the city and this has been reflected on the city as a whole and its centre in particular, because the centre is the theatre of all the stages it has gone through, and the clear picture of the accumulation of social and cultural changes resulting from the multiplicity of civilisations as well as the good and bad conditions it has gone through, and because its centre is the centre of a metropolitan city (a major metropolis) that has increased its strength on the one hand and pressure to weaken it on the other due to its historical and urban specificity that forces it to submit to conservation conditions that often affect it in a negative way as a living environment.

6.1. City centre; is it a living environment for its inhabitants?

The city centre includes several neighbourhoods, and each neighbourhood is generally characterised by specific types of services: 'Khalaf Hussein Ali Al-Dulaimi', the residential neighbourhood includes a group of residential shops, so the services in it have a wider scope than the shop and complement it, so it includes : Primary schools, kindergarten, health centre, recreational area, small market, mosque, infrastructure services, water, electricity, sewage, waste collection, telephone, transport, as well as secondary schools, large markets, a large mosque, larger recreational areas and health services (Khalaf Hussein Ali Al-Dulaimi,2009') .

On this basis, the services in the residential neighbourhood are larger in terms of capacity and radiation because the population is larger, making the city centre carry the services of ordinary neighbourhoods in addition to other services.

The city centre of Constantine is also characterised by carrying all the above-mentioned neighbourhood services in addition to services that reach the whole of Eastern Algeria as regional services because it is the centre of the capital of the East, which explains its strong attraction and important movement and the positive and negative impact of the presence of people coming to it from different regions.

6.2. The centrality of Constantine's city centre is a double-edged sword:

Constantine's city centre is in this position between being a living space and a vital centre for the population and at the same time the centre of the most important city in eastern Algeria in terms of regional services.

This makes it characterised by diversity as it carries the intersection of several functions: Housing, work, mobility and commerce; this gives it strength, especially as it is the most important spatial nodes in the city because it is one of the points that have many important functions as a node between two or several lines of a single network or between two or several networks, ensuring good connectivity and fluidity of movement and movements and thus ensuring the organisation of the area (Jean-Jacques Bavous, 2010), this is in terms of urban structure, but in terms of quality of life this has led to the population being affected by various inevitabilities and thus the possibility of disruptions in their lives and changing their living conditions that may affect their satisfaction and contentment. The question arises: Does the centrality of the old city contradict the quality of urban life in it? Especially since it has seen various interventions to preserve and value it.

6.2.1. The Permanent Plan for the Preservation and Valorisation of the Protected Sector of the City of Constantine

Within the framework of the preservation of the old city of Constantine, several interventions have been carried out since its classification as a protected area through the Permanent Plan for the Preservation and Valorisation of the Protected Sector. This type of plan was approved under Article 42 of Law 04/98 dated 15 June 1998 as an alternative to the land use plan in areas classified as urban heritage (PPSMVSS vieille ville de Constantine, phase I, diagnostic et mesures d'urgence, rapport de la première phase, mai 2009), but was not implemented until Executive Decree 03-324 dated 04 October 2003, with a protected sector area of 85 ha, 39 are and 5.3 ca.



Fig. 1. The protected sector of Constantine. Source: Master plan (2003)

6.2.2. Master plan project in 2003

This project focused on the rehabilitation of the protected sector, especially buildings of all types, and the Souika neighbourhood was adopted as a field of study where a comprehensive and detailed study was conducted and buildings were classified according to several criteria (condition, number of floors, ownership,

origin...) This project was carried out in partnership between Constantine University and the Italian University ROMA TRE and included the following:

- Creating a pedestrian walkway that facilitates access to Mallah Slimane Street.
- Construction of a car park on Tatash Belkacem Street (the street), another one near Sidi Rached Bridge and another one at the place called Rambli.
- Construction of pedestrian roads (streets dedicated to travelling on foot).
- Construction of an open-air theatre in the lower part (Lower Souika).
- Construction of new squares in the lower part (Lower Souika).
- Construction of parks and tourism infrastructure in the lower part of the Lower Souika (PPSMVSS vieilleville de Constantine, phase III, redaction finale du PPSMVSS, October 2012).

6.2.3. Mellah Slimane Street Project 2006

More of a rehabilitation project than a study, since it was initiated by the State of Constantine in 2005, this project concerned the renovation of the sewage and potable water networks (Bitam Amina, 2011-2012), as well as the restoration of eight dwellings as models.

6.2.4. Constantine Capital of Arab Culture 2015

The Constantine Capital of Arab Culture 2015 is in accordance with Article 89 of Law No. 13-08 of 30 December 2013, which includes the Finance Law for the year 2014, in which an account No. 141-302 is allocated for the preparation and organisation of this event, as stated in Issue 68 of the Official Gazette of 31 December 2013 (official gazette, issued in 31 december2013)

The city hosted the Constantine Capital of Arab Culture 2015, where its programme included:

- Nine large areas within the boundaries of the protected sector
- Nine point projects outside the walls, comprising 18 operations related to
- Rehabilitation of streets, squares, mosques, corners, paths, individual buildings.
- Reconstruction of the façade of the Lower Souika with its gardens.
- Rehabilitation of the Casbah.
- Interventions on the archaeological zones of the areas concerned (Fantazi Imane, 2020-2021).

Through the field investigation carried out regarding the relationship of the residents with the interventions of the event, they 'want to improve their living conditions in the old city such as cleanliness, security, the creation of recreational spaces while maintaining the traditional appearance of the city concerned (Fantazi Imane, 2020-2021) and the interventions of the demonstration programme have affected the material aspect.

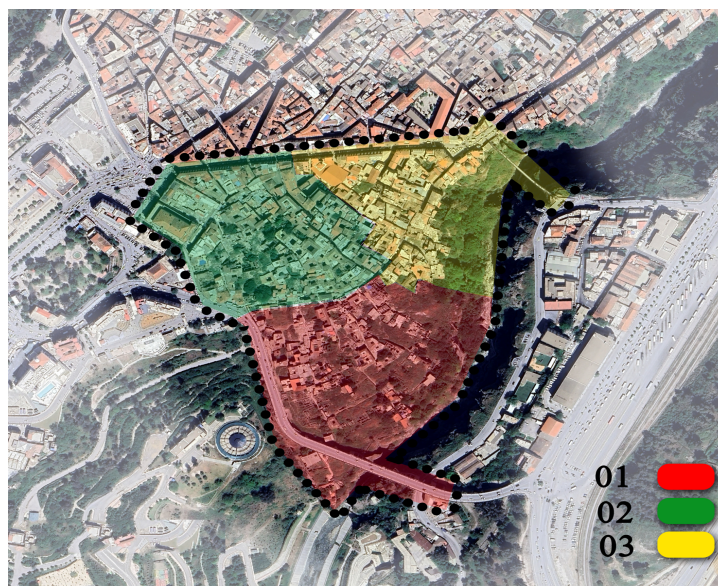


Fig. 2. Sectors of intervention in Souika for the Arab Capital of Culture program.

Source: Fantazi Imane (2020-2021)

6.2.5. Constantine's Metropolitan Modernisation Plan

The city centre was the priority in this programme, as it is the point of origin of the city as well as the carrier of its strength until the beginning of thinking about the possibility of relieving pressure on it without affecting it in a negative way, losing its specificity, especially in the services and commercial aspect.

7. Field investigation methodology

The inhabitants of the old city are the permanent users of the old city, and their level of satisfaction with the living framework reflects the extent of success in meeting their needs and requirements and thus achieving the subjective quality of the old city because it is considered the centre of their lives.

Through this article, we will try to identify aspects of the quality of life in the old city of Constantine and extract the impact of interventions to preserve it as a living heritage on the one hand and its centrality on the other hand on the quality of life of its inhabitants.

In order to address this topic, multiple sources were relied upon, the most important of which are: Simple observation without participation, questionnaire and statistical data, where the data of the National Bureau of Statistics of Constantine for the year 2008 and a field survey of the old city of Constantine were relied on, and the statistical data were processed in Excel software.

The Souika neighbourhood (Lower and Upper) was chosen as the area for this study because it is the part of the old city that was not heavily interfered with by colonialism, making it the oldest fabric in the old city as well as the most special because of the significant deterioration of the urban fabric that negatively impacted the lives of the inhabitants in the old city as well as all the conservation and rehabilitation programmes that chose it as a model.

After observing the field of study and extracting various phenomena, a questionnaire was distributed to a sample of residents of the old city, which was distributed to all schools in it as a total sample for the thesis to ensure its access to different categories of society on several levels and to ensure randomness of distribution to the sample members, during the month of February 2024 and then in the months of April and May 2024.

This article focuses on the results of two primary schools (Haddad Akila School and Mouloud Belabed School) because they are located in the selected sector of the study (Souika neighbourhood), and on only one aspect of the questionnaire, namely the living framework, by distributing 50 questionnaires equivalent to 50 families. This aspect of the questionnaire consists of a set of indicators that translate four variables that relate to the quality of life as Souika is a large part of the old city (the protected sector), which is considered the centre of the city and a carrier of heritage at the same time, i.e. the living framework of the inhabitants of this historically, architecturally and socially sensitive area.

The questions of the questionnaire were formulated in such a way as to obtain the largest number of field information from the population, as they consisted of closed questions linked to possibilities and open-ended questions that allow the respondent to answer without restrictions.

These questions focused on the specificity of the living framework as a secondary investigation within the general field investigation and branched out to:

- Sense of belonging to the neighbourhood.
- Dwelling.
- Standard of living.
- Mobility

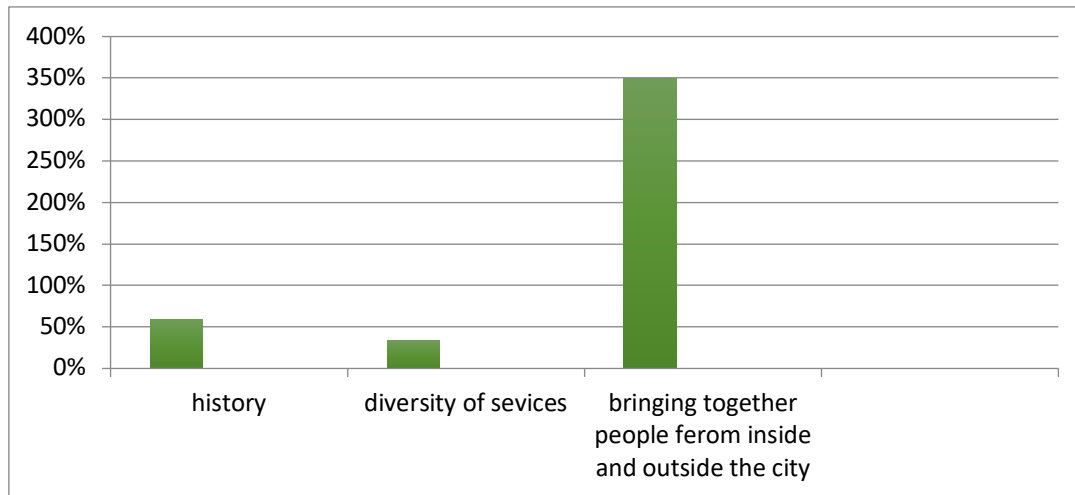


Fig. 3. Souika in 25 years. Source: Author (2024)

8. Results

8.1. Sense of belonging to the environment

8.1.1. Good aspects about the Old city: 60% of respondents like the history of the old city, 48% like the fact that it brings together people from inside and outside the city (this allows for openness to the other, as well as accepting tourists and dealing with them in a way that encourages them to return). While 34% like the variety of services.



Graph 01: Good aspects about the Old city of Constantine. (Source: Author, 2024)

8.1.2. Annoying aspects of the old city: 50% of the respondents are annoyed by overcrowding, 46% are annoyed by noise, 42% are annoyed by the streets because they are deteriorated, crowded and overcrowded, 24% are annoyed by loud noises, 12% are annoyed by the concentration of most services and 14% are not bothered by anything, in addition to other reasons that bother the respondents, such as deteriorating morals, fragile dwellings and various problems in its old streets.

8.1.3. Loud noises in the old city: 46.81% of the respondents consider loud sounds to be a source of annoyance and stress, 21.28% consider it to represent the fragrance of history, while 31.91% consider loud sounds to be normal (nothing). At the same time, 74.41% of the respondents do not agree that the area should be completely silent and devoid of sounds because silence makes the place soulless and because sounds and noise in the old city are one of its most important features because it is the shopping centre, and the noise gives the streets value and life fragrant with the smell of feet, while 25.58% agree that the old city should be silent because they do not like noise but quietness in order not to disturb the work.

8.1.4. Feeling comfortable in the neighbourhood: 82.22% of the respondents feel comfortable because they are used to the neighbours because they are kind and share with each other in all outdoor works and the neighbourhood is quiet, while 17.78% do not feel comfortable because of the lack of needs and the presence of problems, social pests and noise.

8.1.5. Reason for wanting to move out of the neighbourhood: 60% of the respondents do not want to move because they are used to the neighbourhood, they are comfortable in it, they like the neighbourhood, they have comfortable dwellings close to their work and study places, 40% want to move because their dwellings are no longer suitable for housing, others are looking for private dwellings (suitable and spacious), and some of them have other dwellings in the new city.

8.1.6. Relationship with neighbours: 62.22% of the respondents have good relations with their neighbours which is a good indicator of comfort in the neighbourhood, 13.33% do not have any relationship with their neighbours and 24.44% have superficial relations with them.

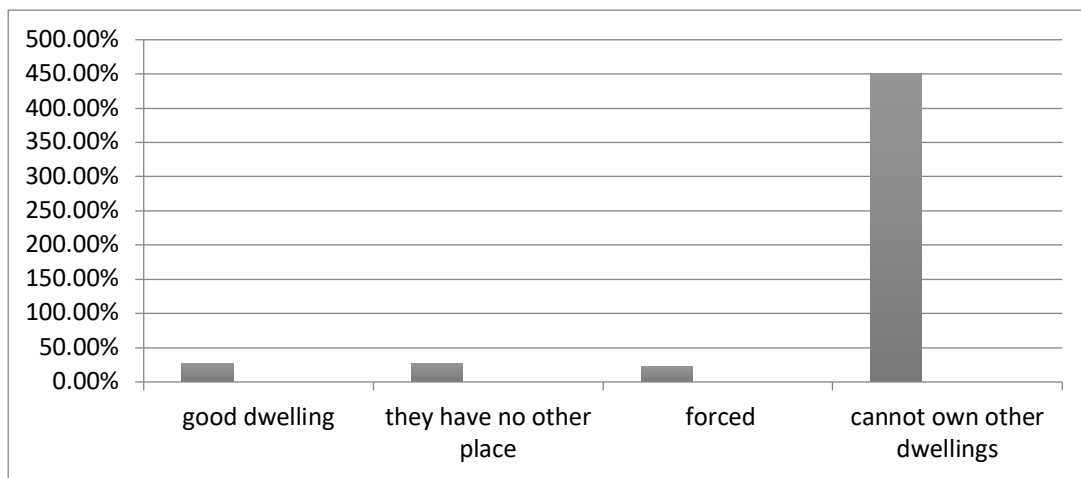
8.2. Dwelling

8.2.1. Dwelling Ownership: 44.68% of the respondents live in family dwellings, 34.04% rent their dwellings and 21.27% live in dwellings owned by them.

8.2.2. Length of stay in the dwelling: 36% of the respondents have been living in their dwellings for about 10 years, 36% have been living in their original family dwellings, 24% have been living in their dwellings for more than 20 years and 14% have been living in their dwellings for about 05 years.

8.2.3. Reason for living in the dwelling: 27.60% of the respondents live in their dwellings because they are good, 27.66% live in their dwellings because they have no other place, 21.28% of the respondents cannot own other dwellings and 23.40% are forced to live in their current dwellings.

8.2.4. Feeling comfortable in the dwelling: 71.43% of the respondents feel comfortable because they own it and some of them feel comfortable because the neighbourhood residents are the original inhabitants, while 28.57% do not feel comfortable due to the tightness of the dwellings, poor physical condition and lack of amenities.



Graph 02: Reason for living in the dwelling. (Source: Author, 2024)

8.3. Level of living:

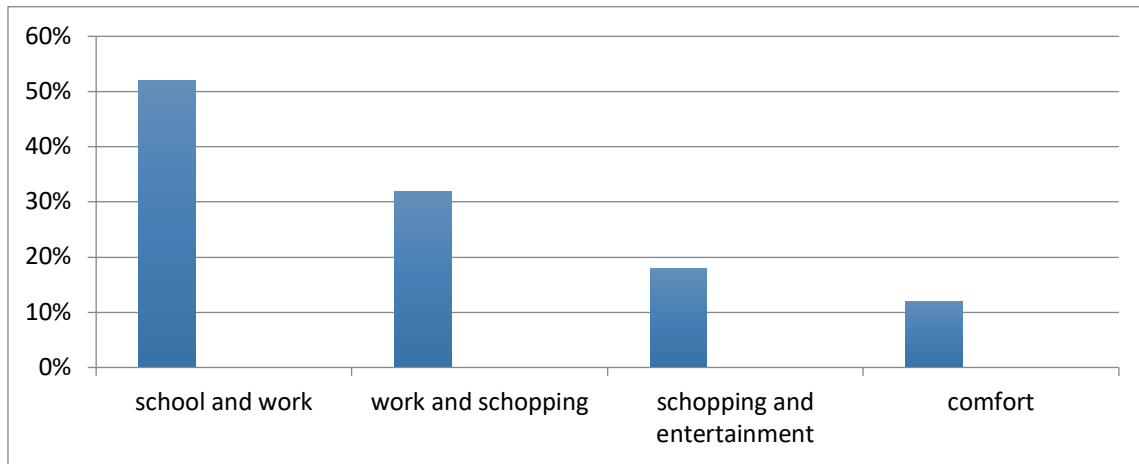
8.3.1. Job: 24.44% of the respondents are employed, 24.44% are self-employed, 33.33% are unemployed, 11.11% are in fixed jobs and 6.67% are casual labourers.

8.3.2. Monthly income: A significant number of respondents 36.36% have income less than 24000 DZD, 24.24% have income between 24000 DZD and 40000 DZD, 24.24% have monthly income between 41000 DZD and 60000 DZD, 9.09% have income between 61000 DZD and 80000 DZD and 6.06% have income more than 80000 DZD, while 9.09% have income between 61000 DZD and 80000 DZD.

8.3.3. Type of daily needs: The respondents had multiple choices as 52% of their daily needs are school and work, 32% need work and shopping, 18% need shopping and entertainment, while 12% need rest, which is an important but unavailable need

8.3.4. Workplace security: 55% of the respondents have good relationships with their co-workers, which is an important indicator of security at work; 25% of the respondents' workplaces are tiring for them, while 20% have spacious and sunny offices.

8.3.5. Where to buy daily groceries: There are multiple choices by the respondents, 46% of the respondents buy their daily needs from covered markets close to their dwellings, 32% buy their needs from their neighbourhood markets, and 22% buy their needs from other places, mainly the daily market and the new city.



Graph 03: Type of daily needs. (Source: Author, 2024)

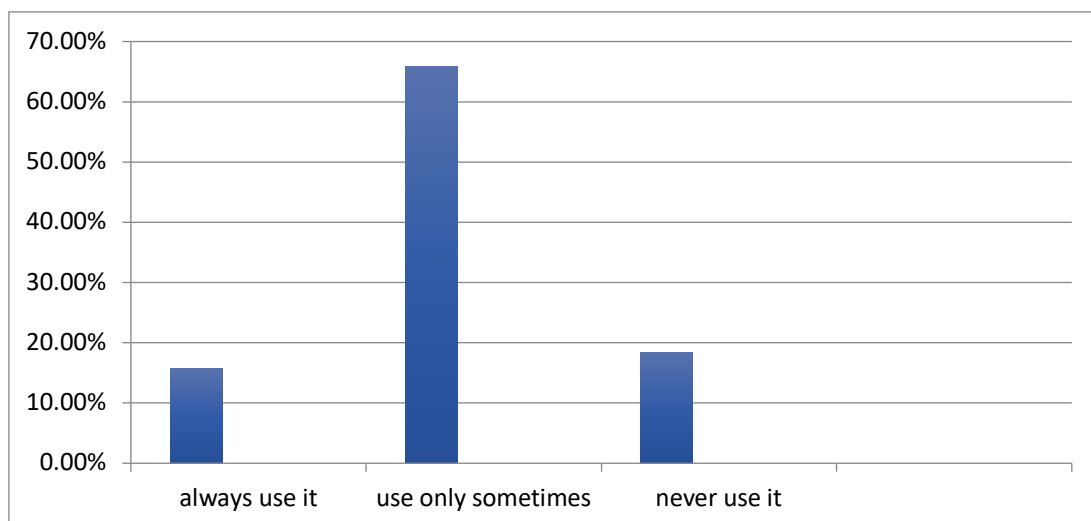
8.4. Movement and mobility:

8.4.1. Car use: 80% of the respondents do not use a car in the old city due to the narrow and crowded streets, as well as the difficulty of finding places to park the car, because they live and work in the same place and shop there, and some of them prefer to move around the place on foot to roam and stroll, while a significant number do not own cars, while 20% of the respondents prefer to use the car because it is fast to meet their needs and others work in it.

8.4.2. Parking in the old city: 38% of the respondents see parking in the city centre as a major issue due to the large number of random barns and most places where parking is prohibited and the lack of parking spaces (too many cars and chaotic barns). 30% thought that there are some car parks, 10% thought that there are enough car parks and 28% thought that there are no car parks (absent).

8.4.3. Type of road used: 61.76% always take the same route to work, 38.23% change it according to congestion and 8.82% change it to avoid boredom.

8.4.4. Using public transport: 65.79% of the respondents use public transport only sometimes, 18.42% never use it, for example because the school is nearby, while 15.79% always use it.



Graph 04: Using public transport. (Source: Author, 2024)

9. Analyse and discussion of the results

9.1. Sense of belonging, safe to the centre or opening the door to indifference

Many of the residents who lived in the Lower and Upper Souika were relocated due to the condition of the dwellings that collapsed for various reasons and others left them in these dwellings although they are not habitable and this made the original inhabitants of the old city diminish and this was accompanied by a sense of belonging that separated the population and distinguished them in a clear way 60% like the history, 34% like the variety of services and are attached to their neighbourhoods where 60% do not want to move because they are close to work and school and it is their place of origin, childhood and life despite many of the shortcomings of the old city, and 62. 22% have good relationships with their neighbours, while 40% want to move because of the deteriorating condition of their dwellings.

As for noise, it is often considered an indicator of discomfort and a negative factor in the urban environment because noise is a factor of degradation of the urban environment and must be fought against, but we sometimes forget that sound also has qualities (Gabriel Moser et Karine Weiss, 2003) and this is what 46.81% of the population saw as a source of stress, while 74.41% of them reject the silence of the place because it becomes soulless and because these sounds express the life and value of the streets and the depth of history and civilisation in the region.

With reference to the above, we conclude that the inhabitants of Souika are very attached to it despite its deep shortcomings and overcome them due to the neighbourliness and depth between the inhabitants and the acoustic atmosphere that, even if it bothers them, they enjoy what makes the sense of belonging safe in the old city as the inhabitants are attached to their living framework.

9.2. The dwelling; the private space of the individual

The dwelling is the centre of human life because it starts and ends with it, and for this reason it is considered the most sensitive link in the life cycle, as many inhabitants feel comfortable in their dwellings and this is a good indicator of the quality of life because 71.43% of them live in dwellings that they own, while 28.57% suffer from the tightness and deteriorating physical condition of their dwellings, and this may cause discomfort and dissatisfaction because they are not in a good condition. This negates the generalisation of Souika as a whole because 36% did not leave their original family dwellings, especially since 44% live in family dwellings from the beginning, In other words, the inhabitants who still live in Souika are the owners of dwellings that are in good condition and, although they are cramped, they do not want to leave them because they are their property and they want to stay there.

9.3. Level of living; the other side of satisfaction

According to Claude Chamboredon and Madeline Lemaire, the quality of life requires the application of social and spatial justice, and in order for justice to be established among the members of society requires social mixing, and according to Claude Chamboredon and Madeline Lemaire, mixing at the level of residence (housing) means that the neighbourhood inhabits diverse groups on several levels (rich and poor, employees, professionals...)(Guy Burgel, 2017).

As 33.33% are self-employed and 24.44% are employees, this reflects the diversity and mixing of different groups in one area, and what reflects this is the monthly income, which directly affects the standard of living of individuals, as 48.48% have an income between 24000 DZD and 60000 DZD, while 36.36% have an income of less than 24000 DZD.

The psychological satisfaction of the individual is one of the most important determinants of the quality of urban life through meeting his needs and satisfaction with the quality of service he receives, especially in the basic aspects of his life, and in this regard, 52% of Souika residents have their daily needs in school and work and find it affordable, and although comfort is important, 12% are the ones who need it, which is a need that is not available in Souika 32% need work and shopping for purchases, where 46% buy their purchases from places close to their dwellings, while 22% buy their purchases away from the neighbourhood and the city of Constantine to the new city, as for work, 55% of the respondents are comfortable in their work because they have good relations with all colleagues.

From the above, the residents are comfortable in their neighbourhood and meet their basic needs, whether services or purchases, despite their modest financial situation.

9.4. Mobility; the flow of life in Souika

The commerce, crafts and various services in the old city, and in Souika in particular, create a variety of mobility for pedestrians, as 80% do not use a car due to the narrow streets, congestion and other mobility issues, but the desire to travel on foot is the desire of many for two reasons, one of which is that the places of residence, work, school and shopping are all in one place, namely Souika. They also do not use cars due to the lack of parking places, which is seen by 28% as a difficult process and a big issue, and this is seen by 38% because most places where parking is prohibited, and this is due to the specificity of the fabric that is characterised by compactness and historical specificity, as for mechanical transport, the population always uses mass transport by 15. This indicates that the majority of Souika residents work and shop from it, making it an acceptable living framework for them, and some of them are forced to use it due to their circumstances and standard of living.

This movement in the old city between going back and forth, where more than half (61.76%) use the same roads, has two sides in terms of achieving the quality of urban life for its residents. The movement in a central area such as the old city ensures maintaining its vitality, strengthening its attractiveness and increasing the strength of its centrality, while it can turn into a curse due to overcrowding, congestion and air pollution that makes the place repulsive due to the impact on the quality of urban life. On the other hand, the compactness of Souika and its narrow streets do not allow for mechanical movement, as all services are close to each other.

Conclusions

Residents of Souika live in a poor financial situation that makes it difficult for them to move out of their neighbourhoods and find better housing, yet they are attached to their dwellings and neighbourhoods and see them as providing them with all their basic needs. They also feel a sense of belonging and gratitude for being residents of Souika and do not want to move from their dwellings or their neighbourhoods, on the contrary, they are very attached to them because they are their family dwellings where they were born and grew up, and this attachment is due to the good neighbourhood that they have expressed and refuse to move. The residents buy their groceries from their neighbourhood and what facilitates this is transportation, as most of the residents travel on foot due to the proximity of services and needs to each other and do not need a car, and they rarely use it and mass transit except to exit the neighbourhood or the city centre as a whole. This makes us conclude that Souika is a living framework par excellence according to the opinions of the residents and provides subjective as well as objective conditions for quality of life. Despite the clear concentration of services and commerce and the importance of this area in terms of heritage and history, it provides favourable living conditions for its inhabitants.

REFERENCES

1. Charles Girard, Tangi Le Dantec (2016), *Bien vivre la ville et si la ville favorisait la santé et le bien-être?* (Fondation AIA, Architecture, santé, environnement), Archibook +Sautereau Edition, pp.48-50.
2. Fouad ben ghodbane (2015), *quality of life in urban communities, diagnostics, indicators, evaluation*, al dar al manhajia, Oman, Jordan, p. 32.
3. Max Craglia et autres (Mai 1999), *Evaluer la qualité de la vie dans les villes et régions européennes, Conceptualisation Théorique, indicateurs classiques et innovation*, CdR, Etudes E, 3/99, Bruxelles, p.14.
4. Natalia Barbarino-Saulnier (8 juin 2005), *De la qualité de vie au diagnostic urbain*, thèse de doctorat en Géographie Aménagement et Urbanisme, Université Lumière Lyon 2, Faculté de géographie, Histoire, Histoire de l'Art et Tourisme, Département de géographie, Institut d'urbanisme de Lyon, Tome 1 Tome 2, p.04 http://theses.univ-lyon2.fr/documents/lyon2/2005/barbarino_n#p=0&a=title
5. Pierre Sansot (2017) (préface d'Olivier Mongin): *La marginalisation urbaine*, Édition Payot et Rivages, Paris, p.18.
6. Bouadam Roukia-Ghiat (juin 2009), *Le devenir du centre ville de Constantine: une histoire de controverse*, département de génie civil, Université du 20 août 55 Skikda, *Al-Bahit Al-ijtima'i*, N° 09, p.08.
7. *Schéma de Cohérence Urbaine de Constantine, rendu mission 3* (juin 2007), (enjeux majeurs du SCU du grand Constantine, projet d'aménagement et de développement à l'horizon 2025 de Constantine, ville et métropole renouvelées, Groupement URBACO-EDR, pp.21-26.
8. Khalaf Hussein Ali Al-Dulaimi (2009), *community service planning and infrastructure, foundations, criteria, techniques*, dar assafa, pp. 51-52.
9. Jean-Jacques Bavous (2010), *Initiation à l'analyse spatiale*, Armand Colin, Paris, p.56.
10. Ministère de la culture, direction de la culture, Wilaya de Constantine, *PPSMVSS vieille ville de Constantine, phase I, diagnostic et mesures d'urgence*, rapport de la première phase (mai 2009), BET J.Kribeche, ELP.

11. Ministère de la culture, direction de la culture, Wilaya de *Constantine*, *PPSMVSS vieille ville de Constantine, phase III, rédaction finale du PPSMVSS*, (octobre 2012) rapport de présentation, BET Jennie Kribeche ,p.15.
12. Bitam Amina (2011-2012), *Le centre de Constantine entre bazarisation et patrimonialisation, la gentrification, une solution*, Mémoire de magister en urbanisme, option: villes et projet urbain, Université Mentouri Constantine, p.186.<https://theses-algerie.com/9774699283724803/memoire-de-magister/universite-freres-mentouri---constantine-1/le-centre-de-constantine-entre-bazarisation-et-patrimonialisation-la-gentrification-une-solution>.
13. *Law n 13/08 historin in 30 december, 2013 the finance law 2014 includes, n 68, official gazette, issued in 31 december 2013*.
14. Fantazi Imane (2020-2021), *Le management des opérations de conservation du patrimoine bâti en Algérie dans un contexte événementiel: cas de la vieille ville de Constantine capitale de la culture arabe 2015*, département de management de projets, Faculté d'architecture et d'urbanisme, Université Constantine 3,p.38.<https://hal.science/tel-03354393>.
15. Gabriel Moser et Karine Weiss (2003), *Espaces de vie, aspects de la relation homme-environnement*, Armand Colin, Paris, p.201.
16. Guy Burgel (2017), *Questions urbaines*, L'Aube, p.63.