Modern problems of urban environment
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Abstract

The article provides information about contemporary problems of urban environment in the context of philosophical and social issues. With the advancement in technological progress, scholars seek answers to the most relevant issues related to the urban development. Current work is focused on discussion concerning the development of cities and major problems of city dwellers. By provision of comprehensive description of a city functioning as a living organism with its inner system, the paper describes all major disadvantages in this system, bringing out issues related to socialization of an individual in a geographically remote area, alienation of urban residents from natural and social life, etc. The field of urban studies is likely to be populated with a number of contradictory opinions, which, due to the popularity of these studies, attract more attentive professional approach and further research.

Keywords: Urbanism, urban environment, contradictions

1. Introduction

Nowadays there is an impressive trend in Russia concerning the ways cities are constructed, built and maintained. This undoubtedly happens because of the growing popularity of urbanism which exists to help people try to understand how to make a modern city more comfortable for interaction of its inhabitants. The more interest to this sphere appears, the more discussions seem to be triggered to reveal major problems of the cities nowadays. The most urgent of these problems are alienation from real communication, nature and informational fatigue. The process of computerisation and internet development opened the "door" to internet communication which is likely to lead to a growing socialisation problem. Nature, forests and countryside become a privilege rather than normal environment. Marketing and advertising activities of billion companies try to get our attention every minute and it undoubtedly affects our mood and health. Thus, urbanism brings out the question on how a contemporary urban dweller can manage to keep a good work-life balance, taking into account all the modern features of technological progress, and not forgetting about the natural environment. In the concept of urbanism, preliminary expert evaluation of city development can be given to state authorities for a further consideration. This fact points out the practical application of studies based on a contemporary findings and usage of fundamental theoretical framework.

2. Discussion

Civilization is a result of transformation of natural environment in the process of genesis of material and spiritual culture, human changes in the working process, emergence of articulate speech, thinking, socialization, and emergence and development of social life.

In this article civilization is considered as a highly developed social structure, the main feature of which, along with the formation of classes, state, church and other social and religious institutions is a certain level of material and spiritual culture of mankind.

Among the several features of modern civilized education research, attention is attracted by its attribute properties, such as an urban environment, consumer' mass culture; widespread activities and virtual forms of communication, which gives grounds to speak about virtualization of spiritual and social life as the essential features of the modern information society.

It is important to emphasize the special circumstances associated with the deficiency of the real, "live" communion of individuals with each other and the natural environment [1]. The replacement, usually inadequate, of real contacts between people into cyberspace promotes different negative social and mental consequences.

Urban environment should be considered as a complex, multi-functional and multi-pronged device that has a direct and significant impact on the lives of a city dweller, forming a specific urban lifestyle, urban culture, directing and creating educational, professional, cultural and recreational orientation.

Features of civilized way of living are likely to affect citizens through the urbanized environment in which they spend most of the time. City dwellers seem to perceive natural environment in an abstract, somewhat distant manner; their social reality and the global processes of informational space are appreciated directly rather than indirectly, usually through the prism of a particular urban lifestyle, overtly or covertly imposed by urbanized environment of a particular city in which people live, study, work and spend their free time.

This indicates an importance of social study of the laws of functioning of urban environment and analysis of these manifestations through the study of the city dwellers' behaviour.

The city is a formation existing for reproduction of favourable, comfortable living conditions for its inhabitants [2].

Urban environment provides an individual with the possibility of satisfying aesthetic and educational needs; it has the potential of initiation to a high artistic elite culture and ensures the availability of a creative educational choice. It also gives the opportunity to be involved in innovative professional achievements and provides the possibility to get professions that may seem relatively new but at the same time highly demanded by the local urban environment, such as a manager, a journalist, a programmer, a marketer, a logistics manager, an advertiser, a public relations specialist, a psychoanalyst, and so on.

In the urban environment, there is a number of contradictions and imperfections that impede the development of the individual in the society of their own kind. It turns a man against secular achievements created by generations of people during development of human civilization. Urban environment can be considered as a host-mediated relationship between the city dweller, a natural habitat and the spiritual life of the city [3].

The phenomenon of alienation of the individual from the natural and social life that accompanies a number of socio-cultural processes is highlighted among the internal contradictions of urban environment.

The essence of alienation is in the appearance, spread and consolidation (objectivation) of many intermediate links between the society and the nature; between people in the workplace, leading to

rupture of direct relations between an individual and a nature-social being; between all people in the society.

Thus, it can be distinguished as the substantive relationship between the urban environment and the real loneliness of urban residents. This relationship follows from the existence of urban individualism and virtualization of communication.

3. Conclusion

A modern city is a centre of the complex mediated relationship among urban residents, natural environment and biosphere, spiritual culture of the city and the information society. Urban environment creates problems caused by remoteness of the natural being, urban dispersal, geographical remoteness of residential areas and places of recreation, leisure and educational facilities, difficulty of real human contacts and opportunities for implementation of spiritual needs. This article is aimed at revealing the most important problems and attempts to examine what kind of activities should be taken in order to prevent upcoming consequences. Though urbanism is likely to become popular among researchers today, the question of human mental health tends to be neglected.

References

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