
BEANS PEDDLERS IN ALEXANDRIA CITY STREETS, FIELD WORK STUDY IN CULTURAL AND BEHAVIORAL GEOGRAPHY

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Abstract

During his career in the streets of Alexandria, especially in the morning and afternoon, the researcher noted that a lot of people are crowded around a weak wooden car made of a special form that allows a lot of bottles of oil and salty things and vinegar and quantities of appearances and other things on the shelves, and inside this big bottles of beans, which spreads in Alexandria city from Al.'Agamy suburb in the west to Abo Qir in the east.

The research deals with a field study of the Beans Peddlers in Alexandria city streets through a number of topics including: Research Introduction, Research Background, Paper aims.

This paper aims at studying some observations, procedures of study, study tools, home site, and migration causes.

Keywords: Alexandria, beans Peddlers, cultural Geography, behavioral Geography.

1. Introduction

Cultural geography is a subfield within human geography, interesting in the study of several aspects concerned with human life style, social, and behavioral dimensions. Many cultural aspects are found throughout the world. Some of the main cultural phenomena study in cultural geography including Customs, Habits, Languages, Religions or Religious principles, Arts, Music, and other cultural aspects that explain how people live in societies and how they are working together [1].

This paper aims to study one aspect of cultural geography interests. Concerning with Economic dimension which is consider the main effect cause in the life style of population sample who are suffering from poverty and privation in their home site; searching for food and change of their living and life style in new places far from their home country about more than 400 km.

Also social dimension is one consideration in this study inasmuch as all of comers to work in this business are from one main village and some other tributary villages, in the Upper Egypt governorate which is called Minia. Their need to social nearness, and feeling with safety is one of the grounds to live together in new community perform the top of urban hierarchy which is different than their small and poor villages in Upper Egypt.

Behavioral dimension too is the target of studying why these people choose this kind of business?, and for popular people who is eating this kind of foods in the streets, standing on front of open cars prone to pollution, dust and flies on roadway. This behavior goes against with health specifications through offering food in plastic plates and second hand materials without any kind of health care.

In spite of the facetiousness of this topic study, but it represents an important behavioral phenomena spreads in many of urban sites in Egypt, for category of peddlers or prowlers offer their fast foods to many poor people from workers, and small officials who find delight in this bean meal, because their going can't allow them to live well. Being to go to another fast foods like hamburger, livers, and beef, moreover their salaries are not enough more to do that.

2. Research Background

The Researcher noticed during his walking in Alexandria City streets especially in the morning and afternoon, Many people are crowded around a poor woody car which is made from special shape allow to many of oil bottles, salty things, vinegar, amounts of onions and other unknown things in the shelves, and inside this car a big bottles of beans. (Picture 1 in appendix) Sealer not Alexandrian man is standing on front of this car, which spreads in Alexandria city from Al.'Agamy suburb in the west to Abu Qir in the east.

Sealers is distributed every one or two hundred meters and in the corners of streets, in acceptable geographic distribution between them without study to some of the geographical theories (i.g) "Central Place Theory", neighborhood analysis, or gravity model, and without any support from administration in choosing their places or supervising for their survive.

These sealers offer fast food beans meals and fresh vegetables only for these people in plastic or stainless plates who they are hurry up to join their work early in the morning. All of them didn't care about health specifications, also they didn't observe or care about the case of food introduced to them from peddlers sealers.

This picture view remembers me with another one when I was in Manhattan in New York City in July 1992 and august 1997, champions of it too was for Egyptians spreading peddlers in new York city streets, but they offers another kind food for American peoples like hotdog, hamburger, because American people who didn't do these works, so they left it to other people coming from the third world.

But with the difference between the case of this car, and the woody beans car in Alexandria City., (picture 2) This is the main reason that summons to study this topic which act behavioral living and phenomena changed to be daily custom for category of society from poor and popular people which is plate of beans act for them the main meal.

3. Paper aims

This paper aims at studying some observations

- Disclose one dimension of the behavioral dimensions interests in the study of Cultural Geography, and this is a new method in geographical trend
- Know about the origin and the home site of these peddlers and the cause of their coming to Alexandria to work in this business.
- The Circumstances which push these peddlers to migrate from their governorates to work in this business.
- Know about the numbers of these peddlers and the nodes of spread in the neighborhood and which agents effect this spread.
- Study age specific rate of these peddlers and their life style and educational level.
- The defect of the administration in the spread of this phenomena through allowing them to do their works without permission or health certificates.

4. Procedures of study

This study passed by many procedures and stages. In the first it was as mere thought until it becomes a fact. All of these stages and procedures as below:

- Paper started with preliminary study to know about this activity that came firstly when the researcher noticed woody cars in many places in Alexandria city streets. One time during his return back from Minia city to Cairo, he met accidentally one passenger from Edmo village that follows Minia District, he was going to Alexandria and carrying with him big amounts from beans which are used in his business. So the researcher asked him many questions and through these questions he could understand many of its mystery to this activity.
- It was so difficult to take responds or information about this activity from these peddlers, because many of them has doubt towards any one asks them about their business, also they are busy and don't have time to respond for any one, because every minute means one Egyptian pound in their pocket. So the researcher searched for some of them who are not busy and don't have many customers to ask them about the numbers of peddlers, where they are living?, with who?, who is preparing beans?, how they move it?, how many hours they are working? (Picture 3).
- Reach to the home living for peddlers in the rural areas in the Upper Egypt in order to know the main causes for their migration to Alexandria and other cities in Delta to do this business.

5. Study tools

This study depends on number of tools help in study:

- Photographic pictures: it is very important tool to disclose many facts through it.
- Questionnaire includes number of questions for peddlers to disclose many of mysterious facts needs to answer (See appendix 1).
- Cadastral map (City map) for Alexandria city and the spread of peddlers there. And another map for the site of Edmo village in Minia governorate map (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Show the distribution of beans peddlers in Sedi Beshr suburb in Alex. City (Red nodes show street car there).

6. Home Site

The first attention that all of Beans peddlers in the streets of Alexandria city are not from Alexandria governorate, they are coming from Minia governorate, especially from Edmo village and tributary areas, they are famous in cultivating Beans yield from many years ago, because the land of Minia generally is rich and graduated, the percentage of people who come from Edmo is 82% from the study number of the sample which is rich to 65 peddlers spreading in the streets of Alexandria in Sedi Beshr suburb..

Edmo village is situated on Bahr Yousef, which is surrounded by it as a half moon in the east. Damsheer village in the west of which is situated in the west of Minia city. It is far from Minia city about 10 kilometers on the longitude $28^{\circ}8'59''$ N and latitude $30^{\circ}40'44''$ E (see figure 2).



Figure 2. Show the site of Edmo village in Minia governorate

7. Migration Causes

It is very important to know the causes that let the population of Minia governorate villages to migrate to another places like Alexandria city and northern delta governorates to work in this business which is different from their working in the agricultural activity

- The first reason because of the decrease of their lands area as a result of tiny possessing (decrease of landowning). It is defect to meet their needs to live in suitable life style, the total area of Edmo

village was 96.05 Feddan, and total of population was 19412 in census 2006. This population number increased to 20783 in June 2011, and this means that the mean share of person in agricultural land is less than 10 kerat including residence, commerce, services buildings. So this small area it is not enough to let people live in suitable life.

- The second cause depends on age specific distribution of population in these villages in Minia governorate which reflects the increase of population numbers in median ages and children in ten ages and reflect their needs to work and be productive, So they migrate to another places in order to work in any business (figure 2 show age specific rate in Edmo village 2006).

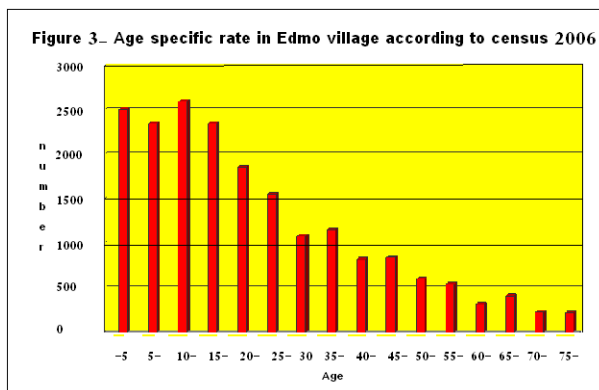


Figure (3) show the ratio of sealers age specific rate in Alexandria city 2011

- The third cause of their work in this business depends on the fast succeed encourages them to continue in working in order to have work, marry, build house, after 4 years from working in this activity, they cant find this chance if they worked in agricultural activity in their lands in Minia governorate.(picture 4)
- The fourth cause is “most of them are illiterate, didn’t have learning at all, even the educated persons didn’t work or have a permanent function.

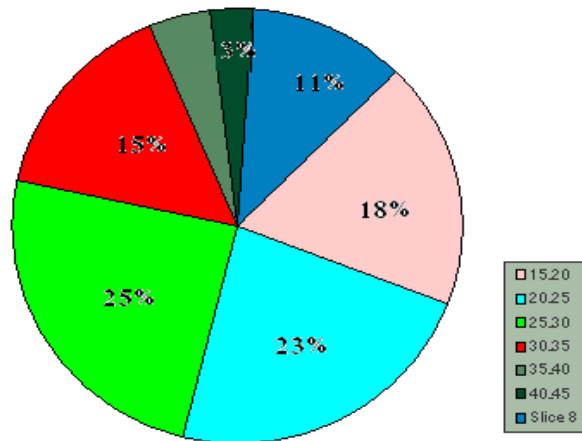


Figure 4. The ratio of sealers age specific rate in Alexandria city

Conclusions

- All peddlers in this activity migrate from Minia governorate in Upper Egypt to Alexandria city and most of them are from Edmo Village in the west of Minia province.
- 88% from workers in this activity are illiterates
- The main cause of immigration is poverty and their need to work and live.
- 48% from peddlers range in the age from the ages 20.30 years old
- 52% from them are coming with their relatives such as, brother, uncle, and cousin.
- 30% from them were working in other activities in the first in Alexandria city, such as distribute gas bomb, vegetables markets, and they didn't succeed in their works so they finally transferred to this activity.
- All of beans peddlers rent store to prepare their products and save it there in 60 dollars per month and another amount about 70 dollars to stay with their families
- The average of income is between 20 : 25 Dollars per day the result of sale around 40 kg. of beans daily
- Before 25 January revolution, the police and municipal were chasing them, but after revolution they left them to do their works.
- All of beans peddlers don't have health certificates to practice their activities (picture 5)
- Every beans peddler has catchment area, far from neighbourhood more than 60 : 100 meters
- All of beans peddlers working in two shifts, the first from 6 to 10 am and the second shift from 12 to 3 pm.
- Beans peddlers are not distributed in Alexandria city only but they are distributed in most of Nile Delta governorates.
- They was has Society brotherhood care about them counterpart average 7 dollars per week per person, but it is stopped from 3 years ago in 2009 as a result of some monetary arguments.



Recommendations

- This study suggests to care about this category of beans peddlers in Alexandria city and all of them in another governorates, supervising of them and giving them proclamation and training for health and personal cleanliness, every one pass this through training doing healthy test he can get a health certificate to practice his activity in safety.
- In cooperation with the ministry of health, and the ministry of Social affairs, they can help by supplying them with civilized cars or at least helping them to do these cars which have the suitable specification for the nature of their nutrition and for Alexandria city as a Mediterranean mermaid.

Reference

- [1] Jordan, Bychkov, Terry G.; Domosh, Mona; Rowntree, Lester (1994). *The human mosaic: a thematic introduction to cultural geography*. New York: Harper Collins College Publishers.

Appendix 1



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Questionnaire study Beans Peddlers in the Alexandria city Streets.

1. Name (optional):
2. Age:
3. Education Degree:
4. Main residence home:
5. Present residence home:
6. Social status:
7. What is the number of years you work in Alexandria City?:
8. What is your previous work in Alexandria City?:
9. What is the Cause of Migration to Alex?:
10. How many hours of daily work?:
11. What is the number of you resident with?:
12. What is expenses of residence monthly rent?:
13. What is the expenses of commercial place rent?:
14. What is the site of your commercial place?:
15. What is the distance between your residence and work place?:

16. What is the source of Beans?:
17. What is the amount of daily Beans sale?:
18. What is the average of daily net income?:
19. Do you have health certificate:
20. Do you suffer from police and municipal chase?:
21. Do you plan to stay permanently in Alexandria city?:
22. What is important target you look for?:
23. What is the main problems meet you?:
24. Do you affiliated to brotherhood?:
25. What is the amount you pay weekly to this society?: