

## **GATED URBAN COMMUNITIES: A SEARCH FOR A SATISFYING IDENTITY. CASE STUDY: GREATER CAIRO REGION, EGYPT**

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### **Abstract**

Gated communities first became popular in Egypt in the 1980s as a result of sociocultural and economic changes brought on by globalisation and economic restructuring. When there was available land of a certain size and price, gated communities mainly developed in the suburbs (Singer and Amar 2006). As a result, gated communities offer residents a means of preserving a certain level of exclusivity while also protecting and promoting their identities. Gated communities are closely related to many important theories and concepts, including social identity, social capital, and sense of community. In actuality, they exacerbate many of the problems that modern society is currently experiencing. To demonstrate this phenomenon, this paper will concentrate on gated communities. Gated Communities are advertised in a way that claims to create and protect an individual's identity, which results in negative effects. Gated communities are frequently perceived as a solution to social and safety issues as a result, but they can actually exacerbate problems like segregation, the privatisation of public resources, the exclusion of certain groups from resources, and security-focused surveillance. This paper initially gives a brief overview of the methodology before reviewing the findings for 408 respondents using cluster sampling, who reside in different types of gated communities along East-West axis in greater Cairo region. The study's goal is to comprehend how gated urban community residents (insiders, social actors) uphold their sense of social identity. Investigating motives and social capital domains, as well as the sense of community that results from the social identity theory, it engages in the identification process. The issue of residents' cognitive reaction to living in a gated community will be best addressed by this action. The process of identifying a motive that will uphold the social identity of gated urban communities can start once the context and conditions have been established. (Mills 1940), the principal findings Social segregation affects intergroup attitudes, and this connection is believed to be a contributing factor. Intergroup bias seems to have an effect on outcomes such as conceptions, mindsets, and behavioral patterns due to the influence of in-group identity on interpersonal interactions and communication. Residents' sense of identity is bolstered by their strong sense of belonging to a group, which shows how homogeneous and highly valued their group is to them. Intergroup attitudes are also shaped by individual preferences, as residents tend to favor those who are similar to them and detest those they perceive to be different. (Annat and Washinton, 2009), (Massey and Denton, 1993)

**Keywords:** Social Identity Gated Communities, Segregation, Social Capital, Sense of Community, In-Group Bias.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Gated communities have grown to be more lucrative real estate market niches as well as a new marketing strategy for developers to offer security, status/prestige, and lifestyle (Ward 1998). Through their cleverly targeted advertising campaigns, their emphasis on such socio-cultural characteristics has changed people's housing preferences and lifestyles. The phenomenon of gated communities can be investigated in a variety of conceivable ways. They can be analysed as signs of increased social and economic segregation linked to the privatisation of democratic institutions when viewed in the context of globalisation, or they can be seen as architectural

responses to new lifestyles. Although the first examples of gated communities primarily served high-income groups, these communities are now also designed to serve middle-income groups (Gordon and Keston 2000). Gated communities also developed a new social structure among its residents, resulting in a closed environment that has its own set of standards and values. In Egypt, social change issues have an impact on the growth of gated communities, especially after the economic and political changes brought about by the two revolutions in 2011 and 2013. People today yearn for a strong sense of self-identity and self-fulfillment that a society can't possibly satisfy. As a result, they keep reinventing themselves in an effort to gain confidence, but this goal remains challenging due to the constantly shifting meanings in their lifestyles. The inability to share common values and goals among citizens of these populations, as well as the competition for resources and power that frequently results in antagonism between various groups, all serve to aggravate this phenomenon. (Ferrell, Hayward, & Young, 2008, p. 59).

Over time, there have also been changes in how we choose our identities. In the past, we battled for the identity we desired and the acceptance of others. Currently, all we are doing is choosing an identity that is being sold while continually ensuring that our identity is still respected and desired. Identity used to be "sustained" through regular interactions with other people. This was accomplished by having a reliable job and a house of one's own. Now we are merely choosing a sold identity while continually ensuring that our identity is still in demand. When considering the example of gated communities, this becomes clear. All of these communities offer security, but they also offer a way of life and an identity alongside it. Customers believe that by investing in a home in a gated community, they are securing not only their possessions but also their identity and way of life. Admittedly, this attempt to establish a sense of identity is formed more by the acquisition of goods than by social contact. (Atkinson, 2008, p. 6) . (Dupuis & Thorns, 1998, p. 27).

In this thesis, gated community residents are regarded as the social group (actors) that will be looked at in order to analyse gated community phenomena and its effects on residents' sense of community. According to social identity theory, various social groups in society gradually isolate themselves from one another and from society as a whole as a result of the way they categorise and identify their values and interests. The intergroup attitudes of gated community residents had a massive effect on the sense of community, a cognitive indicator of social capital. (Lance & Dronkers, 2011), (Stolle, et al., 2008). Gated urban communities are viewed by some as "segregated zones," creating a different world beyond walls and gates. Understanding how social groups would differentiate themselves from other social groups or society as a whole, identify with common in-group categories, and self-categorize in terms of these categories is the key to comprehending the social transformations brought about by the concept. The thesis seeks to develop a theoretical framework that makes it easier to explain how these concepts are related to one another. This framework allows one to understand how the idea of parallel places within gated communities has influenced intergroup relations; gated urban communities are perceived as "segregated zones," establishing a separate world beyond the walls and gates. Understanding how social groups would be more likely to self-categorize in terms of, identify with common in-group categories and distance themselves from other social groups or society

as a whole is the key to understanding the social transformations brought about by the concept. The thesis aims to develop theoretical framework that facilitates an explanation of the relation between these concepts. Through this framework, one can see how the notion of separate worlds within gated communities has impacted intergroup relations. This paper responds to key inquiry: Do gated communities promote social capital bonding through categorical social identities?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1) Social Identity Theory (SIT)

The social-spatial identity approach is based on the assumptions that the social relationships found in social networks and the social group memberships within communities have shaped people's lives, perceptions, and behaviours, which in turn reflect and change how society is functioning. As a result, people represent society through their social identities: "the conscious, living representations of the political, intellectual, and cultural forces that shaped them".

Henri Tajfel (1979) introduced the psychological concept of social identity theory (SIT), in which social identities serve as conceptual bonds, the socio - economic and cultural framework for social groups, and patterns of social interaction. It was developed originally as a theory of intergroup connections and group cooperation. On the other hand, in terms of the psychological theory of the individual role and identity within groups as well as between groups generally. Tajfel (1978) described social identity as "that aspect of an individual's self-concept that results from [...] awareness of [...] membership in [...] a social group (or groups) in addition to the interest and emotional value associated to that membership." As stated by Tajfel (1978), social identification can be defined and assessed in terms of:

- The group's significance and centrality to the self-concept.
- A perception of identity for the members of the group as well as a sense of belonging.
- Emotions and self-esteem resulting from group membership, whether they are positive and constructive or negative.

**Figure 1: Three key cognitive components of social identity theory**



Source: <https://retro.studydrive.net/en/flashcards/smt-social-identity-theory/16637>

Therefore, the definition of social identity is how we describe ourselves in terms of our membership in a group. Three crucial cognitive processes—social categorization, social identification, and social comparison—form the basis of social identity theory.

## **2) Social Identity And Social Capital / Approach To Social Capital**

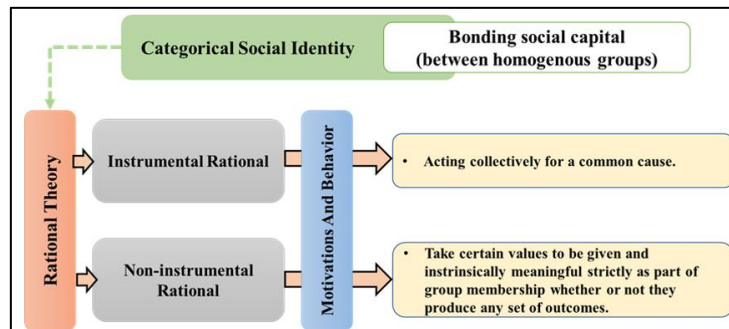
Although there have been many definitions of social capital and much discussion surrounding it, Pierre Bourdieu's remains one of the earliest and may be the right choice. Bourdieu defines social capital as a person's or a group's capacity to obtain benefits as a result of group membership. (Bourdieu, 1986, p. 248). When Bourdieu looked at social capital from a group perspective, he focused on how homogeneous elite groups used it to maintain their own status in society. The foundation of social identity theory is the notion that a person's behaviour is significantly influenced by their social group membership. Social groups are made up of people who work together to plan their actions. However, social groups are complicated in two ways: first, people differ in their levels of participation and in how frequently they switch groups. Jiang and Carroll (2009) use categorical social identities to explain social capital in terms of bonding social networks. A person's personal identity is reframed in terms of the identities of others when they identify with them. In actuality, when people "self-categorize" themselves in terms of social groups, they are motivated by social group goals rather than personal goals.

## **3) Categorical Social Identity and Bonding Social Capital**

The community is used as the analytical unit for social capital, with a focus on the type and degree of bonds as well as individual involvement. Putnam's theory of social capital is primarily constructed in relation to relatively small groups of individuals. It makes sense, then, that social capital for bonding only applies to small, homogenous groups of people who are close to one another and who engage in a lot of personal interaction. However, homogeneity is not explained by personal contact and group size, but rather by likeness, according to social identity theory. This is so that they can forge a close bond since people with similar interests are more likely to associate with one another.

While bonding social capital is crucial for the development of beneficial social networks, it can also be exclusive, inward-looking, and reinforce exclusive identities and homogenous groups. It may also foster out-group antagonism by strengthening in-group bonds. Putnam's focus on homogeneity can be interpreted as referring to social interactions in which people identify with others because they believe they have something in common. When members of a group assume that certain group values are inherent and intrinsically meaningful regardless of whether they result in a specific set of outcomes, people may be motivated in either an instrumentally rational or non-instrumentally rational manner. Associating social capital with categorical social identities is an idea worth considering.

**Figure 2: Social Identity Basic Forms Associated With Bridging and Bonding Social Capital**

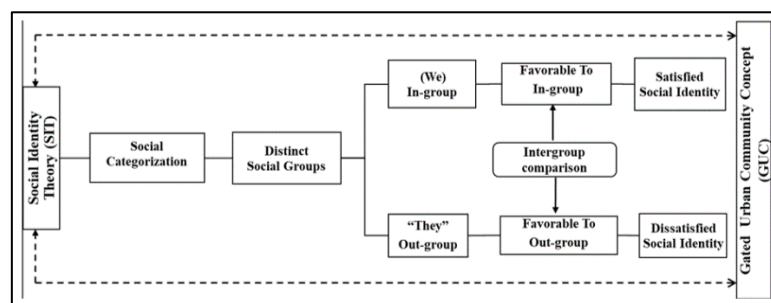


Source: A. Christoforou and J. Davis, eds., Forthcoming in Social Capital and Economics: Social Values, Power, and Identity, London: Routledge, 2014. Summarized By Researcher

#### 4) Social Identity theory (SIT) And Gated Urban Communities(GUC)

A social group is a collection of norms, viewpoints, and behaviours that serve to denote similarities among members of the in-group and differences from members of the out-group. Group patterns are mental representations of a group's norms that firmly assert, "We are like this," and may include components like status, religion, ethnicity, or shared community. Which define the idea of gated urban communities.

**Figure 3: Tajfel and Turner's social identity theory**



Source: [http://www.age-of-the-sage.org/psychology/social/social\\_identity\\_theory](http://www.age-of-the-sage.org/psychology/social/social_identity_theory). Summarized and modified by Researcher

Gated communities serve as symbols for a distinct "world" of social segregation, privatization, and exclusion. Where communities' walls as well as gates provide residents with a sense of security that meets their psychological needs. The purpose of barriers is to provide safety, security, a space for residents to express their sense of identity, and a clear line defining at which one's commitments end. (Schrag, 1997, p.32)

#### Gated urban communities concept

According to Blakely and Snyder (1997), "gating" is a spatial patterns approach that protects property values as well as noticeable signs of shifting social perceptions and socially

appropriate spatial identification. Although the concept of gated urban communities (GUCs) has been discussed and debated in the housing market and urban sociology since the 1980s, gates, walls, and other structures have been characterised as spatial segments surrounded by physical barriers that restrict access by non-resident social groups (outsiders). Researchers recognise gating up as a phenomenon that affects a society's and social bonds. Two key words are used to define it: "community" and "gates," which refer to an enclosure and physical barriers that can both block off roads. Claims that the term "community" refers to two different aspects,: Gustfield (1997)

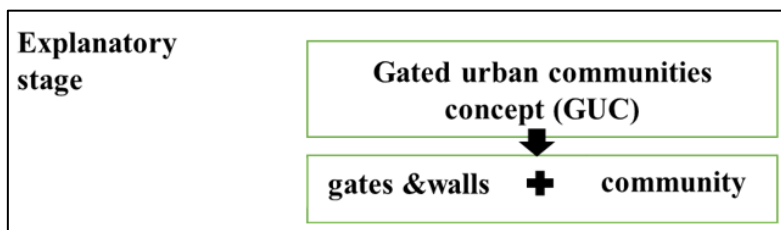
**a) spatial aspect:**

Mc Millan (1996) describes community as being divided into them," and "us or as having physical borders (such as gates and walls) that differentiate "insiders" and "outsiders." It mostly refers to the community of space associated with a neighborhood, city, town, or region and depends on the social structure of a sense of belonging with reference to an area or location.

**b) social aspects:**

Generally it is defined as having a sense of belonging to social groupings, engaging in similar behaviours, having comparable demographics, and having a personal connection to others without taking into account physical geography, therefore referring to an interests-based community..(herek and glunt 1995).

**Figure 4: Key Definition of Gated Communities**



Source: The Researcher

**Gated urban communities spatial boundaries / Gates and Walls Formation**

*"Why is there a wall here? A wall can provide privacy for persons who want to be alone and do not want to meet people of a different culture, or presented in their living area, which initially appears to be a security issue. People are cautious of outsiders and feel safer in a homogeneous community with similar people."*

The conception of gates and walls serves as the perimeter for gated urban communities and has a variety of symbolic, geographical, and social implications. These implications have an impact on how people interact with space by expressing authority, power, and discipline over it, it restricts "club goods" to community members and limits accessibility to common amenities. (Webster, 2002, webster & lai, 2003).

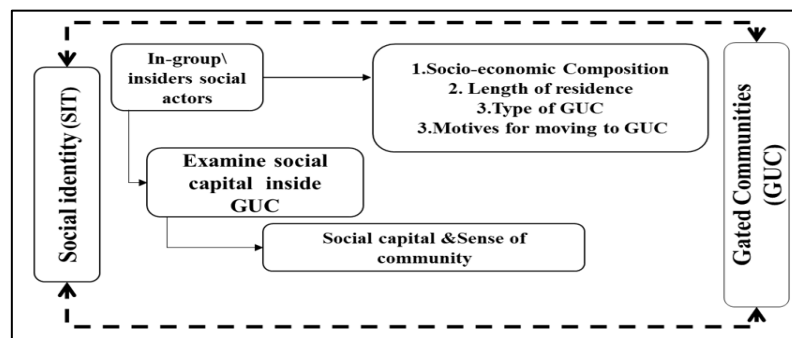


The first policy for gated urban communities is the fact that it permits gating. These guidelines serve as "codes," which ensure the "visual harmony" necessary to maintain the community identity. These codes are private agreements between gated urban communities' developers and owners. A dimension of belonging, a sense of community, and the shared symbol system expressed in symbols, language, and dressing serves as an attempt to bridge the gap to build community distance between members and non-members. (Lennerta, 1991), as well as the inequitable distribution of social culture and social capital.

### **Gated urban communities social boundaries / sense of community**

It really was necessary to define the psychological concepts used to describe the sense of community in order to discuss the meaning of communities. Weisenfield (1997) defines the term "sense" as the outcome of community members' "we-ness" collective perception schemes, which strengthen the sense of "self." Hernandez (1998) said that the phrases "this is our space" and "we are not alone" can best express the term "sense," however "sense" in the context of sense of community corresponds to a feeling or identity offered about a space as community or homogenous group. According to Putnam discussion of social capital, sense of community describes the cognitive element and social contact between members of social groups is created when group members of a relationship have similar lifestyles that identify common meanings, beliefs, perceptions, responsibilities, and social identities. Kim 2001).

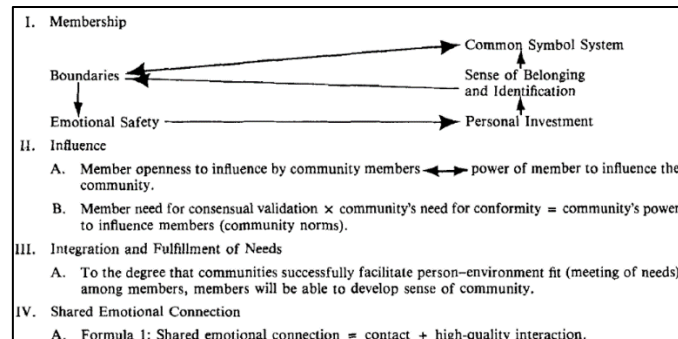
**Figure 5: Flow of study examination**



Source: The Researcher

In this section, we will examine sense of community as an aspect to measure bonding social capital inside gated urban communities. In its sociological context, segregation corresponds to how social life is organised, Segregation makes categorization and stereotyping easier. (Either by engagement or avoidance, connected to the concept of social identity building. The lack of interaction between members of various social groupings is defined as segregation in this context. Smith 1989). enos 2017),

**Figure 6: Sense of Community and Their Dynamic Relationship**



Source: Mcmillan, David & Chavis, David. (1986). Sense of Community: A Definition and Theory. Journal of Community Psychology. 14. 6-23. 10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:13.0.CO; 2-I.

### Gated Communities' Proliferation in Greater Cairo Region

The built environment's components are not only urban shapes; rather, they are places where social, political, environmental, and human variables interact. In all cities and metropolises, dynamic processes that have a significant impact on community life, conventional urban structures, infrastructure development, and urban administration have led to the residential mosaic found within the urban structure. There is therefore no exemption in the Greater Cairo area. Historical change has resulted from transformations over the past three decades, which are being fueled by dynamic change processes such as population increase, fast urbanisation, privatisation, and globalisation. Gated communities, which are primarily found in the suburbs on the outskirts of Greater Cairo, have emerged as new sorts of urban projects and brought with them these negative elements.

The liberalization of the housing market was first introduced at the 80's and 90's. In addition to the state's withdrawal from offering low-income housing. As a result, the state directed its plans to the luxury housing, land privatization in favor of big contractors, opening a new path to the incorporation of gated communities and luxury housing along the outskirts of Cairo.

### Sudden Transformations in Greater Cairo Region/ Egypt Overview

"A new sociological type: the graduate with no future" arose as a result of the rapid expansion of university education and unemployment increase during the "youth bulge," which was caused by the high rate of population growth. (Peterson Institute for International Economics). Nearly 80 million people made up Egypt's population as of late 2010, and almost 40% of them relied heavily on subsidies to buy their daily necessities—roughly the equivalent of \$2 in US dollars. When protests erupted and requests for a minimum monthly wage increase from \$100 to \$240 were made. The percentage of the poor increased from 2008 (19.6%) to 2010 (21.6%), in addition to an increase in the number of the truly poor, according to the Egypt Human Development Report (EDHR). Development experts had predicted a revolution, partly because basic necessities were no longer readily available.



**Figure 7: Egyptian revolution 2011 seeking for better life social and economic standards**



source:<https://en.qantara.de/content/egypt-and-the-arab-spring-vive-la-resistance>

Late in 2010, Egypt underwent a number of socioeconomic and political developments, which began on January 25, 2011, when Egyptians took to the streets to demand "food, freedom, and social justice." According to the United Nations, 20–30% of Egyptians have lived below the poverty line since the 1990s, which contributes to unrest and revolutions in the majority of countries. According to a report released by the Egyptian Council of Ministries, the proportion of Egyptians living in poverty increased from 17% in 2000 to 22% in 2010. After Egypt had witnessed 2 revolutions since 2011/2013, seeking for "bread, freedom, and social justice". Egypt was affected not only political and economic issues, but also it caused major social changes in society and its perception of the social development of the society. The point is that the current government perceives that housing and real estate are endeavours that will rescue Egypt's battered post-revolutionary economy.

### **Types of gated urban communities found in the greater Cairo Region**

The following three categories of gated urban communities can be distinguished based on selling price and physical attributes through site visits observations and studies of developer-reported marketing in media including newspapers, websites, and retail magazines:

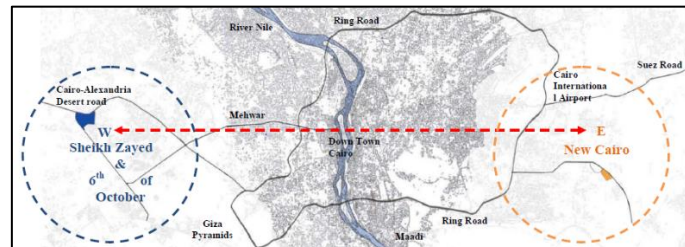
**(1) High-end gated community** – an exclusive residential community with upscale facilities with club house and golf. These kinds of neighbourhoods are entirely gated. However, they are located in privately owned public spaces and are made up of varied home, villa, and luxury apartment building footprints. As Mivida Emaar.

**(2) Moderate gated community** – a subdivision of moderately priced homes with only average amenities. The price drops and more purchasers are drawn to the project since it has more apartments. It includes amenities including dining establishments, shopping centres, and food courts. Some are only partially gated; primarily, this is due to financial considerations. As EL-Rehab City

**(3) Affordable gated community** – For families with typical incomes, the Affordable Community (GC) is a small-lot housing development with minimum facilities. Many people living in these subdivisions make too little money to afford a property in a gated community or in the neighbourhood. Because so many workers desire to live in affordable homes close to

their places of employment, there are more affordable GCs available nowadays.as Dar Misr and Ganna projects.

**Figure 8: Gated Urban Communities Locations along East-West Axis**



## METHODOLOGY OF DATA ANALYSIS

In this section, we investigate the analytical model argued to examine the social transformations of the concept of gated urban communities by the venue of social analysis of space in Greater Cairo region. The first step calls for a determination of context and conditions, in which a motive is selected and affirmed by residents of gated urban communities (in-group social actors) to maintain their social identity. We investigate the level of social capital between ‘in-group’ social actors as they are the main concern of this study. This study was conducted between August 2021 and September 2022, which was a time when it was challenging to find the required sample due to the pandemic's (covid-19) consequences and precautions. It was challenging to get in touch with "insider" social actors. A questionnaire was conducted on 408 participants of total (65) of the three types of gated communities which is located along the East-West axis of greater Cairo region, divided to (35) gated communities at East- axis of greater Cairo region, in New Cairo city, sherouk city, Obour city,..etc, and ( 30) gated communities at West-axis of Greater Cairo region. In Sixth October city, Sheikh Zayed. A subdivision was made for gated communities according to their type as discussed in literature, (19) of high-end gated communities, (20) for the moderate gated communities, and finally (26) for the affordable gated communities.

**Table 1: General Characteristics**

N= 408	Type of Gated Community			Location	
Category	High-End	Moderate	Affordable	East-Cairo	West-Cairo
Total (N)	163	124	121	258	150
(%)	40.4	30.4	29.7	63.2	36.8

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The general characteristics of respondents included: 1) demographic characteristics such as sex, age, marital status, and 2) socioeconomic characteristics such as educational level, type of school/university for children, occupation status, and household annual income.3) location of gated community. We use Likert 5-scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree).

## Demographic Characteristics

The total number of responses to the survey was 408. The survey's subjects are selected to cover all age's categories from less than 20 to 50 and up years old. Table shows that the highest percentage of respondents are the young middle age, in the range age (30-49) years old with a total of (221) corresponding to (54.2%) of the total. Among them, (52.2%) of the respondents are females, while males are (47.8%) of the total. While On Marital status, the majority were married (78.7%) of the total, followed by several single residents (14.5 %) then followed by a few divorced/Widower residents (6.9 %). This number can be attributed to the young age structure of the Egyptian population as well as the desire of the young to relocate in order to improve their living situations.

**Table 2: Demographic Characteristics**

N= 408	Age			Sex		Marital Status		
Category	<20-29	30-49	>50	Male	Female	Single	Married	Divorce/ Widower
Total (N)	68	221	119	195	213	59	321	28
(%)	16.7	54.2	29.2	47.8	52.2	14.5	78.7	6.9

## Socio-Economic Characteristics

Regarding level of education, (68.9%) of the respondents are college graduates corresponding to (281) residents of the total, while (29.2%) among them held higher degrees (Master or PHD). These findings suggest that the majority of the respondents were able to read and fully comprehend the questionnaire items and provided accurate answers. Following by the type of schools/ universities attended for their children, the highest percentage is for international schools (53.4%) of respondents, while 36.3% attend national schools. This suggests that the majority of residents of gated communities prefer to give their children best education which maintain their status and identity, some agreed that schooling is also an important part of socialization that have to be selected carefully to keep their children with same social-status and likeminded people.

**Table 3: Socio-Economic Characteristics**

N= 408	Highest Educational Level			Children School/University				
Category	High School	College	Master/ PHD	National		International		Absent
Total (N)	8	281	119	148		218		42
(%)	2.0	68.9	29.2	36.3		53.4		10.3
N= 408	Occupation			Housing unit status		Annual income		
Category	Government /private employee	Own business/self- employee	Retired	Own	Rent	120,000 to <300,00	300,000 to < 400,000	400,000 to >500,000
Total (N)	201	163	31	371	37	181	123	104

Regarding occupation status, 53% of respondents are government \ Private firm, employees, 40 % are self-employed or have their own business, and the least percentage are the retired 7.6% and who specify other occupation status are 3.2%. While for household income, 44.4%

earn from 120,000 to less than 300,000 LE per year, followed by 30.1% earn from 300,000 to less than 400,000 and finally 25.5% earn from 400,000 to more than 500,000. And this can be interpreted as the highly educated people are more likely to have independent and private professions which enable them to earn and save more money and most respondents devote a significant proportion of their income to their home. And the most significant that residents prefer to buy in gated communities as developers give them the chance to have installments for 8 years and sometimes more, which is better for them than renting, also the Egyptians spend one third of their income to own a house, as it is a culture to invest in buying home. This explain why 90.9% of respondents living in gated communities own their home, and only 9.1% are renters.

### **Motivation to Live to Gated Communities**

The majority of social scientists concur that there are a variety of social and economic factors that influence moving decisions and that these factors change with time and the movers' ages addressing a question, who moves and why? .Those who relocated to a new home or apartment are referred to as movers. The time residents move to gated communities, the time of movement as for respondents begins from 2009, increased after 2014 by 25%, this is mostly due to the social, political and economic transformations occurred in Egypt after two revolutions 2011/2013. This transformations pose chaos and un stability between people, arise in-security and uncertainty towards the surrounding society, then increased to 27% from 2015 to 2018 and the highest was after 2018 till the present of the study, which was a challenging time of quarantine and (covid-19) precaution's and social and economic changes at this period, all over the world. Indicating that people's identities are fragile and that they may be willing to adopt a one since people thought it was more satisfactory. (Ferrell, Hayward, & Young, 2008, p. 57-58; Atkinson, 2008, p. 6).

People who move to gated communities are questioned about their motivations. The responders who have relocated and now reside in gated communities have been asked to list their reasons for doing so. The reason you moved question has five response options, which are arranged into four groups: family, social, housing, safety, and other reasons. The majority of respondents agreed to motivations, as in table (4) shows that The highest agreement concerning motivations to move to Gated urban communities, is the need to a better lifestyle or higher social status by percentage of (39.7%) of respondents (162 residents), followed by that they need social distinction with like-minded people (19.6%) of respondents (80 residents), followed by their desire to own home, not rent and change in marital status respectively, the lowest was fear of crime motivation, with 11.8 % (48 residents). Residents mentioned that they prioritised their children's security over their own sense of safety. To find homogenous bonding groups is one of the goals of this investigation. Sharing a "shared fate" has been demonstrated to help create a connected and unified group, which causes the group members to forge a powerful social identity based on the group. (Castano et al., 2003; Leach et al., 2008). The majority of the issues mentioned as gated urban communities' causes in literature are consistent with those discussed. The Greater Cairo Region has undergone significant socioeconomic change over the past ten years, and the randomness stream that caused lost identification at the city centre is

likely to be to blame. This study's high agreement rate for these specific items could indicate that people adopt social identification, which tends to interact with "similar others," and social categorization in order to distinguish and define group norms. In order to adjust to changes in place aspects, such as how one should think and behave, they search for norms that specify who "we" represent as a societal structure. Because of this, the sample used in this study may be characterised as homogeneous, validating our theory and our approach about the strong social capital relationships among residents of gated urban communities.

It wasn't surprising to discover that the group of college residents aged (30–49) with children enrolled in international schools or universities are the highly significant to maintain and develop social capital. As discussed in literature, the primary motivation for moving to gated communities was seeking a higher social status, better lifestyle, and highly social distinction with like-minded people. This loop of isolation is completed by providing the highest education level for their children... As mentioned by some parents that it's a kind of 'forced and protected' socialization, it's a syndrome of 'class bubble'. Type of education for children is one of the most distinct and differentiation between social classes nowadays. This means that, unexpectedly, newer residents has a stronger impact on the sense of social capital. This number can be linked to the fact that the majority of Egyptians are young and thus more inclined to consider relocating in to enhance their lifestyle than older generations.

**Table 4: Motivations to Move to Live in Gated Community and Length of Residence**

Category (408)		Total	Percentage (%)
Reasons for moving to gated community	Change in marital status	50	12.3
	Own home, not rent	63	15.4
	Fear of crime	48	11.8
	Better lifestyle/ higher social status	162	39.7
	Social distinction with like-minded people	80	19.6
	Other	5	1.2
length of residence	≤4	195	47.8
	>4:8	110	27.0
	>8	102	25.0
	13	1	0.20

### Social Capital and Sense of Community

One of the core aspects of social capital is sense of community, which assumes social contact among members of homogeneous groups in social networks and indicates that this connection may result in a strong feeling of social identity drawn from these groupings. This characteristic is key for analysing social capital bond discussions in the literature. The following four domains combine to create the value one places on their social group: 1) Ties and Friendship/ emotional connection, 2) Influence, 3) integration and fulfillment of needs, and finally 4) membership & social identity. Each variable has three questions to investigate level of sense of community.



**Table 5: Analysis of Sense of Community domains**

Variables		Questions	Q. No	Mean	Relative Importance	Sig
Sense Of Community	Ties and Friendship/emotional connection	I have made new friends by living in my gated community.	Q1	3.88	.78	.00
		I am quite similar to most people who live in my compound.	Q2	3.75	.75	.00
		I care about what my neighbors think about my actions.	Q3	3.36	.67	.00
	Influence	I have almost no influence over what my compound is like.	Q4	2.93	.59	.00
		I sometimes get irritated with some of my neighbors	Q5	2.74	.55	.00
		Parents in my compound let their children do whatever they want	Q6	2.78	.56	.00
	integration and fulfillment of needs	I would be willing to work together with others on something to improve my compound.	Q7	4.14	.83	.00
		People in your compound give you a bad name if you insist on being different	Q8	2.69	.54	.00
		Most people in my compound are willing to help if you need them in serious problem	Q9	4.04	.81	.00
	membership & social identity	In general being a resident of my compound is an important part of my self-image	Q10	4.13	.83	.00
		Given the opportunity I would like to move out of my gated community.	Q11	2.11	.42	.00
		I feel like I belong in my compound.	Q12	4.04	.81	.00

Similar to McMillan and Chavis' (1986) theory, which draws on the notion that a sense of community enhances feelings of membership and the belief that needs will be met within the community by working together and results from strong bonding in-group, it supported availability and the capacity to work together and get things done.

#### a) Ties And Friendship/ Emotional Connection

The first variable focuses on issues relating to forming emotional relationships and friendships inside the community as well as the degree of similarity among community members. This is consistent with the idea of emotional connection placed forth by McMillan and Chavis (1986), according to which the more people interact, the stronger their bonds become. These bonds then grow into ties within the community, which in turn help to forge and sustain a sense of community as a whole. We investigate friendship inside their gated community, 'I have made new friends by living in my gated community'. The highest level of agreement of (3.88) as mentioned by some residents, Moving to gated urban areas was cited as a reason for the need to be surrounded by "equal" people, the desire for more homogenous social groups, and the demand for social differentiation. However, as residents use these facilities, the presence of shared areas also promotes inter-resident socialization. A benefit of residing in a gated community was also thought to be the potential for making new friends. There was some interest in building social ties with a homogeneous group as evidenced by the fact that many people agreed about making new friends.

We investigate their perception of similarity with 'insiders' of their gated community, they agree about similarity (3.75), 'I am quite similar to most people who live in my compound'. Strength of social identification with a given group has been shown to affect group



homogeneity, similarity, and sense of community. Additionally, close relationships inside the group foster a sense of belonging, the impression of "sharing the same fate," and a high regard for unity within the group. Also how neighbors perceive their actions inside their gated urban community, I care about what my neighbors think about my actions. It is the lowest level of this variable(3.36) , where residents neither agree nor disagree that they care for neighbors opinion about their actions, actually this is explained by the presence of internal codes and rules which manage the most behaviours of residents and how they act outside the doors of their housing unit, they mentioned that rules of community make your behavior regulated, so any who make a strange action or behavior, can't cope with our community, so easily either you behave similar or you can't stay in community, it's an implicit force of norms and behave.

#### **b) Influence:**

The second variable, selected items connected to area impact. This is consistent with McMillan and Chavis' concept of Influence, which is interested with concept of a reciprocal interaction between individuals and the group in terms of their impact on one another, giving them a feeling of power and control over it.

Respondents neither agree nor disagree on the questions '*I have almost no influence over what my compound is like*', '*I sometimes get irritated with some of my neighbors*', and '*Parents in my compound let their children do whatever they want*' ranged between (2.93- 2.74). Although, It's the weakest variable of sense of community, but it indicate that the 'insiders' are not much concerned, This could be due to insiders' passivity when compared to the quality of living and behaviour prior moving to a gated community..

#### **c) Integration and fulfillment of needs**

Items loading on the third variable pertained to the support available in the community and the ability to work together and get things done. This is similar to with McMillan and Chavis' (1986), notion of Fulfillment of Needs, which taps the idea that a sense of community enhances feelings of integration and the belief that needs, will be met within the community. The perception of similarity with others, an acknowledged interdependence with others, a willingness to maintain this interdependence by giving to or doing for others what one expects from them, and the feeling that one is part of a larger dependable and stable structure," noted Sarason (1977, p. 157) as the fundamental characteristics of a sense of community. They employ "we" language rather than "I" to signify sharing similar aims. High degrees of integration among inhabitants who are members of the same social group lead to high levels of homogeneity that favours their own-group. So when locals inquired about dependency and integration levels within their gated urban neighborhood. The highest agreement (4.14) is 'I would be willing to work together with others on something to improve my compound'. Followed by agreement (4.04), on 'Most people in my compound are willing to help if you need them in serious problem'. and The lowest level (2.69), 'People in your compound give you a bad name if you insist on being different.', as residents neither agree nor disagree on this question, Some residents mention that their gated communities are 'selective' so no big differences in social structure observed, and some adds that rules and regulations of community

are mostly respected by residents, which lessen any mis- behavior or differentiation. In light of this, the third variable, Integration and Fulfillment of Needs, refers to the notion that for a community to continue to feel good about itself, the individual-group interaction must be beneficial for the individual members. As a result, shared needs, objectives, and beliefs act as the unifying factor in the formation of a cohesive group and a sense of belonging.

#### **d) Membership**

Fourth variable is Membership refers to the feeling of belonging, of being part of a collective, and identification with the community. Intentional Boundaries created by membership criteria provide structure that protect group intimacy and create social distance between members and non-members. One significant part of the communal dimension is identification with the community. It is possible to comprehend the variations in social capital levels addressed in literature in terms of how much people identify with their community. When residents asked about identification with the gated urban community, the highest level of agreement (4.13) on 'In general being a resident of my compound is an important part of my self-image'. One is considered to have strong in-group identification when they are acutely aware of their group membership and place a high value and emotional weight on it (Hogg, 1992). Biased assessments of in-groups and outgroups are among the affective and cognitive effects of in-group identification. Followed by feeling of belonging to their gated urban community, the agreement level (4.04) on 'I feel like I belong in my compound'. Feeling like you belong, or that you are a part of the group, is a fundamental component of membership. If you are a member of a certain community, boundaries are another important component. To have a sense of community, one must first belong to a community, according to this idea, which appears to be a required component of any definition of community. This high level of identity and belonging to their community confirms the prior responses about high levels of identification and belonging. It is normal to find residents disagree with a (2.11) when residents asked about moving out of their gated urban community, 'Given the opportunity I would like to move out of my gated community'. As a result of these findings, strong social links within communities are frequently associated to sense of community. Social links and cognitive connections to the social-spatial environment can both help to build this. (Brown and perkins, 1992). The development of strong social capital inside the group can be facilitated by these ties, which can be essential to communal aspects of self-identity and belonging to the in-group. But some comments highlighted that socialisation is perceived as "forced" and "protected" and connected to not being able to "see reality" and "living in an artificial class bubble," especially for kids who didn't have socialisation with the outside world before relocating to gated communities. (Svampa, 2001). Parents frequently point to the phenomena of "closed communities" as one reason why their kids aren't exposed to diversity. They think that being a part of these communities inhibits them from interacting with people from backgrounds different from their own. Children are forced to live in an exclusive gated community of international schools or colleges, making it challenging them to simply interact with individuals from other socioeconomic classes. The phenomenon of "elite groups" and "exclusive social networks" are connected, though. It also encourages intentional in-group bias and "insider" self-determination, both of which contribute to social-spatial segregation. These factors increase

social capital among homogenous groups. As a result, insiders and residents in gated communities on equivalent with or above them tend to build close friendships.

## CONCLUSION

Several factors have become evident after researching gated communities in the area. First off, we live in a period when insecurity is widespread and financial status has replaced other qualities as the defining aspect of who we are. Gated communities have promoted themselves as a means of making people feel comfortable by giving them a new identity and a promise to protect their identity by securing their belongings. As long as our identities are built on our material possessions, the issue of them being continually remade will continue to exist. Second, the vocabulary of motivations analysis demonstrated that security may only be a mask for the underlying motivation behind purchasing a home in a gated community. The Mills theory demonstrates how this justification is employed to safeguard our identity. A closer examination reveals that gated communities focus more on proudly displaying individual's status and affluence than they are concerned providing protection. Finally, it was proven that gated communities affect the rest of the community via isolating themselves through the analysis of the psychology of exclusion. Unless we once again develop our sense of identity through engaging with other people.

However, being a member of a group and living in a gated community are important aspects of their self-image. Additionally, this strengthens their sense of strong community involvement. Literature does, however, support the high level of satisfaction that a gated community provides its people and how it shapes their sense of identity. Residents' high levels of social capital are reinforced, and there may be an in-group bias present that fosters unconscious relationship quality. This study emphasizes how a community's social ties become so influential that it can be hard to tell where the gap between both the individuals and society is. When assessing the significance of social capital, it is crucial that we look at the strength of community ties. In conclusion, increased antagonism toward other groups occurs when members of a homogenous population show a high degree of strong attachment to their own group. This data supports up the theoretical claim that the key to understanding how social capital is bonded in gated communities is social identity.

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