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A Framework for Exploring Livable Community in Residential Environment. Case Study: Public Housing in Medan, Indonesia

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Abstract

Livability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life. The factors are including the built and natural environments, economic prosperity, social stability and equity, educational opportunity, and cultural, entertainment and recreation opportunities. Some studies show an interest in 'place shaping' as a way to create a livable community. The aim of the research is to identify the place shaping in public housing in Medan by using grounded theory. The research area is Perumnas Helvetia, Perumnas Simalingkar and Perumnas Martubung. Community residents of Perumnas represent the character of the local community in Indonesia.

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1. Introduction

Livability is the sum of the factors that add up to a community's quality of life. The factors are including the built and natural environments, economic prosperity, social stability and equity, educational opportunity, and cultural,

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entertainment and recreation opportunities. Planning a quality of residential area where occupants feel comfortable in the present and the future is the goal of the designers. Based on Dempsey (2009), designing livable community is needed: (1). Some criteria based on occupant satisfaction housing, (2). The design is in neighborhood scale and (3) indicators of design criteria.

The effort to create a livable community has been making all over the world. Stevens (2009) compare the effort of planning in US and UK. In the US, livability embraces a range of long-term efforts by increase environmental sustainability, by increasing densities and land use mix and improving transport. Whereas in the UK, target livable community focuses on the management and redevelopment of spaces in existing neighbourhood rather than the planning in the new one. The livability of a residential environment as one measure of community quality of life (Epley & Manon, 2008). Livability operates at the level of the everyday physical environment and focuses on place-making. Forming a place involve not only an architect but also a planner and an urban designer. The 'place' is the environmental settings to which people are emotionally and culturally attached. Community attachment in the 'place' will be the basis for the establishment of livable community.

This study explores a framework for planning livable community in the public housing area. The government appointed *Perumahan Nasional (Perumnas)* to organize productive activities in the development of public housing construction and infrastructure. Lower-middle-income groups are living in public housing that to acquire the necessary economic status to move on in life (Okunola & Amole, 2013), so the social dynamics of the public housing is quite high. Exploring place shaping in public housing with highly social dynamics will help the formation of livable community there.

The prediction of the study is a livable community will be formed when the needs of residents are accommodated and involved in the management of the settlement. The research area is public housing in Medan namely Perumnas Helvetia, Perumnas Simalingkar and Perumnas Martubung. The structure of the paper consists of background study, literature review, framework planning and implementation in a residential environment, discussion and conclusion.

2. Literature review

2.1. *Quality of life*

There is an overlap in a relationship between normative, objective and subjective quality of life. The normative QOL refers to the perfect condition; objective QOL refers to the standard quality of the world such as PCGDP (PerCapita Gross Domestic Product), and subjective QOL refers to residential satisfaction. Shirotuki et al (2010) doing the research about the gap between planning environmental psychology used scale items of a sense of place such as place attachments, place identity and place dependence. The research conclusion has shown, most people are more likely to have a sense of place even if time has the pass. It indicates that although there are differences in the assessment, the resident has psychologically bonded with their seats; it will remain outside of planning theory. Research on the relationship between the physical environment and the quality of neighborhood life have published in the scientific journal of various disciplines (Bajunid et al., 2011). This evidence suggests that a relationship between the physical environment and neighborhood quality of life is important because many researchers from different disciplines and different viewpoints have thought about it.

2.2. *Livable community*

Planning livable community depends on the scale of planning. Regional scale is quite different from similar issues at the neighbourhood scale. An effective way to manage the aspects is to prepare plans at each relevant scale. Research conducted by (Aulia,2014) in regional scale discovered that the component of a livable community is (1). Land usage, where the community has diverse land use to meet their needs. (2). Social and Cultural Opportunities (3). Economic Resources, the availability of resources can be a catalyst for raising the level of cultural, recreational and artistic opportunities (4). Access and Mobility, it means efficient land use and transportation linkages that give residents access and mobility. (5). Safety and aesthetics, it means safe community, safe neighborhoods and safe streets. (6). Environmental considerations such as good water quality, air quality and noise. (7). Cumulative aspect

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