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Assessment on the Condition of School Facilities: Case study of the selected public schools in Gombak district

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Abstract

Parents' criteria for selecting the suitable school were influenced by the facilities provided by the school. The objectives of the paper is to examine the requirements and planning standards and guidelines of public schools development, to assess the condition of the school facilities in the study area, and to provide the recommendations to improve the development of public schools. The site observations were carried out to provide a clear view of the school components and the school surroundings. The data gathered from the site observation is recorded using inventory lists. The recommendations were proposed to improve the condition of the school facilities.

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Keywords: public school; school's facilities; condition; inventory checklist

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1. Introduction

School is one of the educational facilities that are important as the major elements in a comprehensive development planning process. The school development and planning required the involvement of several relevant authorities. The school should become as the focal point of the neighbourhood area. As school is a core of the community, hence, its development should be planned based on the neighbourhood concept.

The adequate number of school facilities positively affects the teaching and learning process in the school (Earthman, 2002). The condition of school facilities has an important impact on student performance and teacher effectiveness. This facilities provided extra learning and leisure opportunities for the whole school community. This paper is aimed to assess the condition of facilities provided in the selected public schools in Gombak district.

1.1. Problem statements

Although the planning authority has provide the guidelines and standards for the school component, there are still some differences between facilities provided by among schools. Disabled children have the rights to receive education same as normal students. However, some schools ignore the needs of the disabled as the facilities for disabled are not provided in the school. This situation hence will lead to exclusion of disabled children from the society. Unavailability of physical facilities in school is a key factors towards the low quality in the students' participation in the class (Glewwe and Kremer, 2005).On the other hand, poor condition of school facilities negatively affects the teachers' performance hence will decrease the academic performance of students in the class (Earthman, 2002; Mc Koy et al., 2008).

The other issue arise is there were lack of maintenance of the facilities provided in the school. Generally, public schools continue to suffer from the lack of regular maintenance of the school facilities (Ornstein et al, 2009). The scarcity of school buildings happened with the increasing number of students which lead to a larger class size and overcrowded classroom. Therefore, parents demand that the school buildings to be provided with adequate number facilities to accommodate the teachers and students. Hence, the facilities provided should be measured to identify the quality of facilities services (Nurul Syakima et al, 2011). This measure would help in managing and maintaining the condition of the school facilities.

1.2. Aim and objectives

The aim of this research is to assess the condition of schools' facilities in Gombak district. The objectives of the paper are:

- To examine the requirements of the school facilities and components based on the planning standards and guidelines of schools development
- · To assess the condition of the facilities in the selected schools in the study area
- To provide recommendation in order to improve the development of school facilities in the study area

2. Literature review

2.1. School facilities

School facilities are one of the basic educational requirements that must be maintained in term of safety and quality. Parents sometimes are taking into consideration the school facilities as the significant criteria in the school selection. A good condition of school buildings and components support the enhancement in teaching and learning progress in the school (Earthman, 2002; Mc Koy et al., 2008). School facilities condition is evaluated by its performance to provide quality and satisfaction among the school community (Nurul Syakima et al., 2010).

School associated with the learning concept where individuals share knowledge and information with each other (Kunlasomboon et al, 2014). The establishment of the school structure is influenced by the built environment. School facilities planning and development affects the physical, educational and financial foundation of the school

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