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## Reviewing Youth Facility Requirements for Low-Cost Housing in Malaysia

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### Abstract

Youth is part of community empowerment participants. They are the driving force in implementing social program and physical planning development. They are described as an active group in the population pyramid. The previous studies showed that youth shapes the pattern of lifestyle in neighbourhood units and even the nation itself. This paper will focus on the low-cost housing areas in which is high density and with scarce spaces as the existing facilities did not appear to attract youth's intention and even for their uses. As a result, reviewing the youth facility requirements can enhance youth's quality of life.

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**Keywords:** Community empowerment; low-cost housing; youth facilities; quality of life

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## 1. Introduction

Housing is a major construction in the history of human civilization. Revolution in housing construction has progressed from times to times with various implementation and ideas. Starting as a necessity human need, house has amplified to become as a profitable investment at present. The scenario has led to the several of construction housing schemes and given more option for public to buy it (Hashim, et. al, 2012b). Along with that, the provision of facilities such as community facilities, recreational facilities and infrastructure obviously plays the role in determining the value of the housing unit.

Malaysia has implemented policies that prioritize the welfare housing low-income earners to earn an affordable house (DRN or National Housing Policies). Some low-cost housing units were built in Kuala Lumpur City Centre. Lembah Pantai, Kerinchi, Bandar Tun Abdul Razak, and Cheras area has more low-cost housing neighbourhood(Housing Management & Community Development Department, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, DBKL). According to Shuid (2010) these low-cost housing is affordable for lower income people outline by National Housing Policies as 78,000 units of low-cost housing will be built for this low-income people. The prices range to these schemes between RM120, 000 - RM150, 000 and exceptional for Kuala Lumpur in which the affordable housing price is between RM180, 000 to RM200, 000 per units (Aziz et. al, 2010).

Besides, the facilities provided are limited as the spaces are scarce around this ‘People’s Housing Project’ (Program Perumahan Rakyat or PPR) and more focused on commercial area and parking space (Ubale, Martin, & Wee, 2012). The problem dwelling by this shortage is because the space is limited within the sufficient ratio of green area requirement in every housing development (“Housing Space Standards”, 2006). As a youth, they have to be more active by interacting with others, so it can develop more personal skills and achieve better quality of life.

Table 1. Classification of youth age by several organizations around the world

Entity/Instrument/ Organization	Age	Reference
UN Secretariat/UNESCO/ILO	Youth: 15-24	UN Instruments, Statistics
UN Habitat (Youth Fund)	Youth 15-32	Agenda 21
UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA	Adolescent: 10-19, Young People: 10-24, Youth: 15-24	UNFPA
UNICEF /The Convention on Rights of the Child	Child until 18	UNICEF
The African Youth Charter	Youth: 15-35	African Union, 2006
Ministry of Youth and Sport, Malaysia	Youth: 15-40	Dasar Pembangunan Belia, 2006

(Source: United Nation organization, 2014)

This paper aims to review the youth facility requirements for low-cost housing in Malaysia. This requirement covers various aspects and observers in providing basic facilities for youth social interaction, and physical activity are healthy. The absent of spaces in the low-cost housing environment is a major issue in failure to provide social facilities to youth. Thus, the objective of this paper is to determine theoretically, the key requirements for the provision of youth facilities in low-cost housing environment. The second objective is to provide comments and suggestions to improve the quality of life for youth in low-cost housing based on facilities for social interaction and healthy physical activity.

## 2. Methodology

This research has been carried out using the meta-synthesis technique as the related studies from the previous authors are integrated, evaluate and interpret. This method has an interpretive, rather than aiming and comparing of quantitative studies. The aim is to increase the understanding at the conclusion by explaining the relativity among

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