

AicE-Bs 2011 Famagusta

Asia Pacific International Conference on Environment-Behaviour Studies, Salamis Bay
Conti Resort Hotel, Famagusta, North Cyprus, 7-9 December 2011

A Comparative Study of Walking Behaviour to Community Facilities in Low-Cost and Medium Cost Housing

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Abstract

Provision of community facilities influences the walking behaviour in neighbourhood area. This paper is based on a comparative study of walking behaviour of residents in neighbourhood area to community facilities. The findings show that low cost housing area is within walking distance as compared to the medium cost housing area in reaching the community facilities as there is certain factor that affects the walking behaviour such as distance, catchment area radius, location, accessibility, density and land use pattern. The recommendations for this study are to create flexible catchment area radius, locating community facilities that can maximise walking and creating accessibility standard in neighbourhood area.

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Keywords: Community facilities; neighbourhood area; walking behaviour; walkability

1. Introduction

Walking is the main form of transportation for the human body. According to John Butcher (1999), walking is convenient, it needs no special equipment, is self-regulating and inherently safe....walking is as natural as breathing, however people tend to walk if it is easier, faster or cheaper than driving. In high

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density area people tend to walk instead of driving where travel by automobile is hindered by congestion and lack of parking space, but people tend to walk in low density area if the area is near to the water element, where the natural surrounding is quiet and the view changes continually (Untermann 1985). Everyone have their own walking behaviour when they walk, different people will have a different type of walking behaviour. Meanwhile, According to Caerdydd (2007), community facilities can be define as facilities used by local communities for leisure and social purposes which includes community centres and meeting places, community halls, community learning, adventure play centres and leisure centres. For community facilities in neighbourhood, grouping of the facilities can encourage the use of all facilities by walking. Within the group also, the various facilities should be physically separated from each other to prevent conflict of circulation (De Chiara and Koppleman, 1925). From the explanation, it shows that the provision of the community facilities is interrelated with the walking behaviour in the neighbourhood. In this era of modernization, climate changes not only affect the walking behaviour of the community but it also affects the walkability of the neighbourhood area. According to Olson (2010), the neighbourhood concept by Clarence Perry utilized the five minute walk because Perry was very concerned about the walkability from the residential area to and from school. The five minute walk is a planning standard describing the average distance that a people are willing to walk before choosing to drive in a neighbourhood area.

2. Walking in Neighbourhood

Walking is the main form of transportation for the human body and it is the activity made by human beings every day and everywhere. In neighbourhood area, residents want to walk when they are attracted to the mix land use where there are activities involving people such as socializing. People are less willing to walk in single use, industrial areas, and single family suburbs, where destinations are distant and the unfolding view is monotonous, thus walking of the residents in a neighbourhood are determined by the level of walkability of the neighbourhood area itself. Walkability and walkable neighbourhoods are becoming buzzwords in planning today as new urbanism ideas are spreading throughout the profession. Many communities today are suffering from a growing dependence on automobiles as the main mode of transportation which results in low-density development and sprawling development patterns. The use of low-density development leads to a disconnection between pedestrians and neighbourhood cores by creating neighbourhoods that expand outside of residents' walking zone comfort (Kevin McNally, 2010). Other than that, walkable neighbourhood is the model of neighbourhood based on walkability (Banerjee T and Baer WC, 1984). According to Abley (2005), walkability can be defined as the extent to which the built environment is friendly to the presence of people living, shopping, visiting, enjoying or spending time in an area. According to Frank (2006), walkability is also dependent on human behaviour of the residents in the neighbourhood area.

2.1. Walking Behaviour

Human has an ability to decide their own walking without relying on other people. However, different types of human will have different types of walking behaviour because there are a lot of factors that can affect the human behaviour towards walking. According to Shahrol Mohamaddan (2010), the walking behaviour is referred to how people performed their walking related to the time taken for moving from one places to another, deciding the walking direction, avoiding collision from each other and other behaviours that can arise during the walking period. In this study, the measurement used in measuring walking behaviour consists of walking distance, time taken to walk, walking formation, strategic location, accessibility and walking experience. This measurement is than used to compare the walking behaviour to community facilities in the low cost and medium cost neighbourhood area.

2.2. Walking Distance

Walking distance is the distance that can be travelled by walking in a fixed amount of time from origin to the destination. The walking distance must give a feeling of wiling to walk and comfort to the people. According to De Chiara and Koppleman (1925), walking distance can be measured in miles while travel

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