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The Relationship between Youth Activities and Outdoor Features in Urban Neighbourhood Space

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Abstract

This paper aims to identify the satisfaction level among youth living in urban neighbourhoodspace. A study has been done to investigate the relationship between youth activities and outdoor features in urban neighbourhoodspace. The studyconductedtwo focus group discussions (FGD) were the first consisted of 12 (twelve) youth participants, and other involving 12 (twelve) related stakeholders, parents, and residents' committee. The focus group discussions held to gather information and understand the current issues as well as to give them chances to express their feeling and experience on the outdoor features provided. As the result of both discussions, 400 respondents between 15-25 ages had been selected to answer survey questionnaire forms questioning them on their satisfaction level on each outdoor features and awareness towards those items.

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1. Introduction

Open space is an important element of the human being especially those living in urban area. People live in the urban area need a place with good criteria and additional features to gain a better quality of life and outdoor activities desire and satisfaction. Meanwhile, urban area nowadays has been lacked open space due to rapid development and urbanisation without considering the needs of open space as part of the element of development. This scenario happened because some of the developers eager to put their wealthy goal more than giving a healthier and better-living space. Therefore, this has resulted in urban area suffering from these mass rapid development without open space as a counter-measure sustaining the environment.

In preparing spaces for people living in the urban neighbourhood, the outdoor features must able to observe the needs of users. Youths are the active group of neighbourhood population and often use open space more than others. Therefore, in preparing outdoor features in urban neighbourhood space must be compatible with youth activities performance and requirements. Outdoor features such as a playground, football field, court, and jogging track play a huge role towards youth activities. These are the spaces for youth spending their leisure time and communicating with others in such of an enormous and crowded area full of buildings and structures.

In defining outdoor features as part of open space requirements, it must be able to improve the quality of urban environment, enhance social interaction among users, promote accessible location, and redolent the comfortable and healthier living space (Ramlee, M. et al., 2015:360). Therefore, a study has been carried out to find the relationship between youth activities and outdoor features in urban neighbourhood space.

The aim is to evaluate the satisfaction level of youth lives in the urban neighbourhood area with the surrounding outdoor features. The objectives are to identify the involvement of youth in outdoor activities in neighbourhood space, to investigate the condition of outdoor features in neighbourhood space and finally to analyse the relationship between youth activities and outdoor features in neighbourhood space. The result of this study shows that the spaces in the urban neighbourhoods need to be improved for the purpose of providing a better quality of life and healthier living space beside as open spaces.

2. Literature review

The modernization and rapid development nowadays have influenced the living environment with much improving and enhancement. Nevertheless, the neighbourhood space mainly filled by low-income and middle-income people have been affected slowly and without any precaution and action plan, their green space and outdoor elements seem to vanish. Suppression of land use development should not only be taken on economic argument and political interest but also involve the real motivation. This can optimise the use of space for amenities and outdoor features (Nilsson, P. 2014).

Despite all individual living in this area, youth plays a significant role in developing future modernisation base on social activities in our community (Yeshpanova, D. et al., 2014). Therefore, the modernization and urbanisation process should not hesitate the needs of spaces such as a public park, field, and green spaces because there is high demand for leisure activities and physical activities mostly participate by youth's age group. Besides, leisure time activities support the development of identity, intellectual, physical and linguistic character among the users (Eratay & Aydogan, 2015).

The community and government stakeholders related to preservative the beauty and healthy living space must seriously undertake with proper and appropriate action plan to maintain and control surrounding development from threatened the spaces made for physical activities and leisure time spends. Moreover, the sensitivity of shaping urban space should be seriously undertaken to ensure its visibility parallel with rapid surrounding urbanisation (Ramlee, M. et al., 2015). Most important here, the inner empowerment must able to conduct and organise their living space to show how much they appreciate the spaces given by the authorities, toward a better quality of life and healthier lifestyle.

Neighbourhood space such as football field, sports complexes, and playground is the familiar place where the residence occupy in physical activity. The spaces must be encouraging and inspire the residents to have physical

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